

# *Appendix Q*

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Correspondence

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## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Highway Administration

#### Environmental Impact Statement: Will and Kankakee Counties, IL and Lake County, IN

**AGENCY:** Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), DOT.

**ACTION:** Notice of Intent.

**SUMMARY:** The FHWA is issuing this notice to advise the public that a Tier Two Environmental Impact Statement will be prepared for the Illiana Corridor in Will and Kankakee Counties, Illinois and Lake County, Indiana.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** J. Michael Bowen, P.E., Acting Division Administrator, Federal Highway Administration, 3250 Executive Park Drive, Springfield, Illinois 62703, Phone: (217) 492-4600. John Fortmann, P.E., Deputy Director of Highways, Region One Engineer, Illinois Department of Transportation, 201 West Center Court, Schaumburg, Illinois 60196, Phone: (847) 705-4000. James A. Earl, II, P.E., Project Manager, Indiana Department of Transportation, 100 North Senate Avenue, IGCN 642, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204, Phone: (317) 232-2072.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The FHWA, in cooperation with the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) and the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT), will prepare a Tier Two Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Illiana Corridor. The study area is an approximately 2,000 foot wide, 47-mile long east-west oriented corridor with a western terminus at I-55 just north of the City of Wilmington in Illinois and an eastern terminus at I-65 approximately 3 miles north of State Route 2 in Indiana. The Tier Two EIS will present further detail on a range of alternatives within the selected corridor identified in Tier One, an evaluation of impacts of the alternatives, and actions for mitigating project impacts to environmental resources. In general, the range of alternatives considered in a Tier Two study will be confined to the selected corridor. However, the flexibility will exist to consider alternatives with minor excursions outside the selected corridor to avoid impacts within the selected corridor not anticipated in the Tier One EIS, or to address context sensitive design issues in a way that does not materially increase overall impacts.

The primary environmental resources that may be affected are: residential properties, agricultural land, floodplains, wetlands, and sensitive

wildlife species. This project is being developed using the Context Sensitive Solutions policies of the Illinois and Indiana Departments of Transportation and will strive to achieve sustainable design concepts. Alternatives to be evaluated will include (1) taking no action and (2) evaluating alternatives within the corridor that was selected in Tier One, including consideration of multiple alignment or design options within the selected corridor, financing options, and construction sequencing options.

As part of the EIS process, a scoping meeting for obtaining input from federal and state resource and regulatory agencies will be held on February 22, 2013. The scoping meeting will discuss the level of detail and methodologies to be used in the Tier Two EIS, as well as addressing the continuation of the bi-state agency coordination process, and will be conducted interactively on February 22, 2013 at multiple locations including Chicago and Springfield, Illinois and Indianapolis, Indiana. For details regarding these locations, Mr. J. Michael Bowen may be contacted at (217) 492-4600. A Tier Two Stakeholder Involvement Plan (SIP), which meets the requirements of a coordination plan, will be developed to ensure that a full range of issues related to the Tier Two studies are identified and addressed. The SIP provides meaningful opportunities for all stakeholders to participate in defining transportation issues and solutions for the study area. The web site established for this project (<http://illianacorridor.org/>) is one element of the public involvement program.

Comments or questions concerning this proposed action and the Tier Two EIS are invited from all interested parties and should be directed to the FHWA at the address provided above. The Tier Two Draft EIS will be available for public and agency review after its publication. A public hearing will be held during the public comment period for the Draft EIS. Public notice will be given of the time and place of public meetings and hearings.

The Tier Two EIS will conclude with a Record of Decision identifying a selected alignment for the transportation facility.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Number 20.205, Highway Research, Planning and Construction. The regulations implementing Executive Order 12372 regarding intergovernmental consultation on Federal programs and activities apply to this program).

Issued on: February 7, 2013.

**J. Michael Bowen,**

*Acting Division Administrator, Federal Highway Administration, Springfield, Illinois.*

[FR Doc. 2013-03289 Filed 2-12-13; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4910-22-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Highway Administration

#### Establishment of the National Freight Network

##### Correction

In notice document 2013-02580 appearing on pages 8686-8689, in the issue of Wednesday, February 6, 2013, make the following correction:

In the Table appearing on page 8687, in the third column, in the final row, "Connect top water ports marked by weight and values" should read "Connect top land ports for both weight and values".

[FR Doc. C1-2013-02580 Filed 2-12-13; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 1505-01-D**

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Highway Administration

#### Notice of Final Federal Agency Actions on Proposed Highway in California

**AGENCY:** Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), DOT.

**ACTION:** Notice of Limitation on Claims for Judicial Review of Actions by the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 327.

**SUMMARY:** The FHWA, on behalf of Caltrans, is issuing this notice to announce actions taken by Caltrans, that are final within the meaning of 23 U.S.C. 139(l)(1). The actions relate to a proposed highway project on Georgia Street Bridge over University Avenue in the City of San Diego, State of California. Those actions grant licenses, permits, and approvals for the project.

**DATES:** By this notice, the FHWA, on behalf of Caltrans, is advising the public of final agency actions subject to 23 U.S.C. 139(l)(1). A claim seeking judicial review of the Federal agency actions on the highway project will be barred unless the claim is filed on or before July 13, 2013. If the Federal law that authorizes judicial review of a claim provides a time period of less than 150 days for filing such claim, then that shorter time period still applies.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For Caltrans: Kevin Hovey, Senior Environmental Planner, Caltrans, 4050



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**Federal Highway  
Administration**

**Illinois Division**

March 8, 2013

3250 Executive Park Dr.  
Springfield, IL 62703  
(217) 492-4640  
www.fhwa.dot.gov

In Reply Refer To:  
HPER-IL

Mr. Ken Westlake  
US Environmental Protection Agency  
Region V. Office of Environmental Review  
77 West Jackson Boulevard B-19J  
Chicago, IL 60604-3590

Subject: Illiana Corridor Tier Two Environmental Impact Statement:  
Cooperating and Participating Agency Request

Dear Mr Westlake:

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), in cooperation with the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) and the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT), is initiating a Tier Two Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Illiana Corridor Project.

The FHWA, IDOT, and INDOT have identified your agency as one that may have jurisdiction by law over the proposed action or have special expertise with respect to environmental resources affected by the project and have an interest in the project. Therefore, with this letter, FHWA, IDOT, and INDOT invite your agency to become a Cooperating and Participating Agency in the development of the Tier Two EIS for the Illiana Corridor. The designation does not imply that your agency either supports the proposed project or has any special expertise with respect to evaluation of the project.

The FHWA, IDOT and INDOT propose that your agency's role in the development of the above project should include the following as they relate to your area of expertise:

1. Provide meaningful and early input on refining the purpose and need developed during Tier One, determining the range of alternatives to be studied in Tier Two, and the methodologies and level of detail required in the alternatives analysis.
2. Participate in coordination meetings and joint field reviews, as appropriate.

Please provide a response to our request prior to April 10, 2013.

Pursuant to Title 23, Section 139, if your agency does not respond to the invitation to be a participating agency in writing, then FHWA, IDOT and INDOT will consider your agency to be a participating agency. If your agency declines to be a Participating Agency, the response should state your reason for declining the invitation.

To consider your agency as a Cooperating Agency, FHWA, IDOT, and INDOT must receive a response from your agency agreeing to engage in the project in this role. If your agency declines to be a Cooperating Agency, please indicate the reason for declining this request and provide a copy to the Council on Environmental Quality pursuant to 40 CFR 1501.6(c).

Q-002

For the Tier Two EIS, the Corridor B3 study area is an approximately 2,000-foot-wide, 47-mile-long east-west corridor with a western terminus at Interstate 55 just north of the City of Wilmington in Illinois and an eastern terminus at Interstate 65 approximately three miles north of State Route 2 in Indiana.

The Tier Two EIS includes analysis of alignments within the selected corridor, preparation of a draft EIS and a Single Document, a combined final EIS and Record of Decision (ROD) that will disclose potential environmental and social effects of the proposed improvements in addition to measures to minimize or mitigate unavoidable impacts associated with the project. The ROD will identify the selected alternative to be implemented.

The goal of the Tier Two EIS is to ensure that the selected alternative adequately balances the needs of the communities, the environment, and the transportation system (local, regional, and state-wide).

Enclosed is a copy of the Illiana Corridor Tier Two EIS scoping document, which was issued pursuant to a project scoping meeting held on February 22, 2013. We also invite you to review the Stakeholder Involvement Plan, available on the following website:

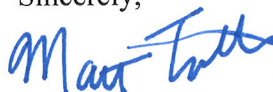
[http://illianacorridor.org/information\\_center/library\\_tier\\_two.aspx](http://illianacorridor.org/information_center/library_tier_two.aspx)

The purpose of the Stakeholder Involvement Plan is to facilitate and document the lead agencies' structured interaction with the public and other agencies and to inform them of how coordination will be accomplished. We invite you to provide written comments on these documents at the below listed address prior to April 10, 2013.

Katie Kukielka P.E.  
IDOT PMC Project Manager  
201 West Center Court  
Schaumburg, IL 60196

If you have any questions or would like to discuss in more detail the project or our agencies' respective roles and responsibilities during the preparation of this EIS, please contact me at (217) 492-4625. Thank you for your cooperation and interest in this project.

Sincerely,



Matt Fuller  
Environmental Programs Engineer

Enclosure

Ecc: Mr. Walter Zyzniwski, Bureau of Design and Environment, IDOT  
Mr. Steven Schilke, District 1, IDOT  
Ms. Kesti Susinskas, District 1, IDOT  
Ms. Laura Hilden, Director, Environmental Services INDOT  
Mr. James Earl, INDOT  
Mr. Ken McMullen, Manager-Environmental Policy, INDOT

# Draft Scoping Document

Tier Two  
Illiana Corridor Study



*Prepared for:*

Illinois Department of Transportation  
Indiana Department of Transportation

February 2013

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## **1.0 Project Definition**

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The Illiana Corridor has been a component of long-range plans for the bi-state region since the early 1900's, and was first envisioned as a vital link in an outer ring of highways encircling the Chicago region. Conceptual highway corridors linking Illinois and Indiana south of Interstate 80 were also studied by regional planning agencies in the 1960's and 1970's. More recently, feasibility studies for a potential Illiana expressway were completed in 2009 by the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) and a supplemental study by the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) in 2010.

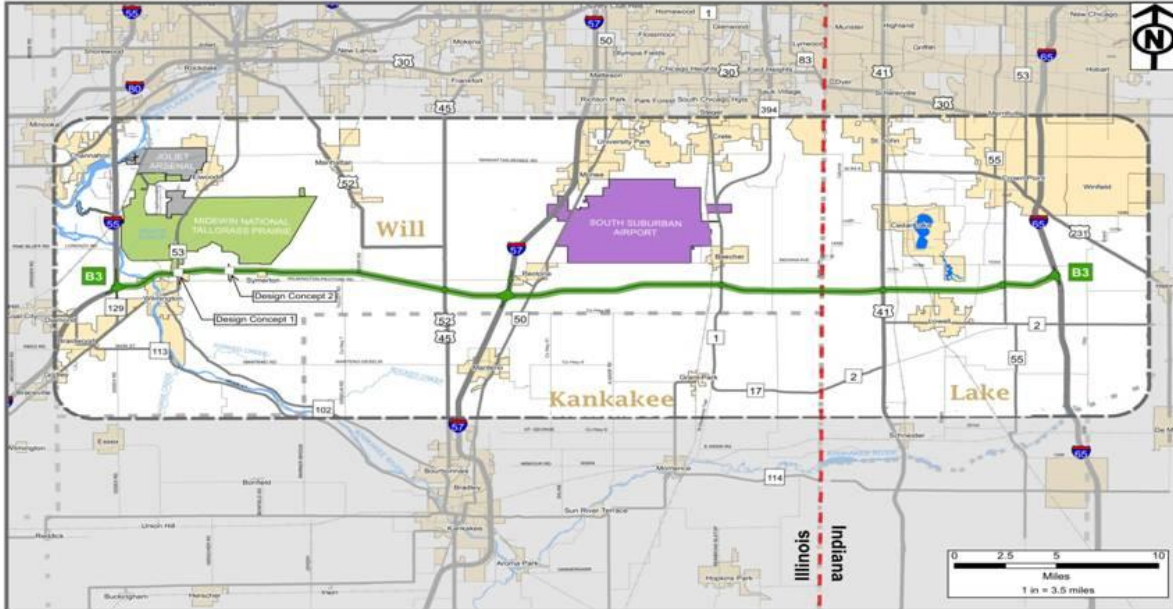
On June 9, 2010, governors Pat Quinn of Illinois and Mitch Daniels of Indiana moved the Illiana Corridor project forward by signing a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA). This MOA outlined a mutual commitment to the project by both states. The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process for the Illiana Corridor is being conducted in two steps or "tiers" that build upon one another. The Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations (40 CFR 1502.20) allows NEPA studies for large, complex transportation projects to be carried out in a tiered process. This tiered approach to transportation decision making under NEPA involves preparing a Tier One NEPA document that focuses on broad issues such as purpose and need, general location of alternatives, transportation mode composition (auto, truck, rail, transit, utilities), and the avoidance and minimization of potential environmental effects.

As part of the NEPA process, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), in cooperation with IDOT and INDOT, will complete a Tiered Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Illiana Corridor project. The Tiered EIS will be advanced in two tiers that build upon one another.

A Tier One EIS was prepared to resolve issues regarding the transportation mode, facility type, and general location and resulted in the identification of Corridor B3 as the preferred corridor to be carried forward for further evaluation in the Tier Two NEPA studies. The Tier One EIS and Record of Decision (ROD) were issued concurrently under Public Law 112-141, the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (MAP-21) legislation, and were signed by the FHWA on January 17, 2013 authorizing Tier Two study activities to commence.

For the Tier Two EIS, the Corridor B3 study area is an approximately 2,000 foot wide, 47-mile long east-west oriented corridor with a western terminus at I-55 just north of the City of Wilmington in Illinois and an eastern terminus at I-65 approximately 3 miles north of State Route (SR) 2 in Indiana. The study area is shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1. Study Area



## 2.0 Process

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended requires that agencies using federal money consider and minimize the impacts of their actions to both the human-made and natural environments. The human-made environment includes residences, businesses, agriculture, noise, and community and land use conditions of the area. The natural environment consists of features including streams, threatened and endangered species, and wildlife. The NEPA process requires federal agencies to integrate environmental values into their decision-making processes by considering the environmental impacts of their proposed actions and reasonable alternatives to these actions. The project development process is an approach to balanced transportation decision-making that considers both potential environmental impacts and the need for safe and efficient transportation.

NEPA requires scoping and encourages early and frequent coordination with the public and resource agencies throughout the project development process. Scoping facilitates public and agency participation and provides the opportunity for their input during preparation of the EIS. The scoping process for this project is following the scoping guidelines within the CEQ Regulations, 40 CFR § 1501.7, which provide that "there shall be an early and open process for determining the scope of issues to be addressed and for identifying the significant issues related to the proposed action."

## **2.1 Tier Two EIS**

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A Tiered EIS is applicable to projects where a single transportation solution for the study area has not been identified with respect to mode (e.g., roadway or transit) and/or location. The Tier One EIS included an examination of the overall transportation system improvement needs, a study of alternatives to satisfy them, and broad consideration of potential environmental and social impacts of the possible alternatives. The Tier One EIS analysis provided an evaluation of the transportation problems in the Study Area based on stakeholder input and engineering analysis, which forms the basis for the project Purpose and Need and for identifying potential corridors. The Tier One EIS was completed at a sufficient level of engineering and environmental detail to resolve the mode, facility type (e.g., type of roadway), and corridor location.

FHWA issued a combined Tier One FEIS and ROD on January 17, 2013. The ROD approves Corridor B3 for continued consideration in Tier Two NEPA studies, subject to conditions set forth in the ROD. For the preferred corridor, the FHWA and the states will proceed with a Tier Two NEPA study, which will analyze alternatives within the preferred corridor.

A Notice of Intent to initiate the Tier Two EIS was published in the Federal Register on February 13, 2013. Tier Two includes preparing a draft and final EIS that will disclose potential environmental and social effects of the proposed improvements in addition to measures to minimize or mitigate impacts associated with the project. Following the guidelines of MAP-21, the final EIS will be issued with a ROD which identifies the Preferred Alternative.

The goal of the Tier Two EIS is to ensure that the Selected Alternative adequately balances the needs of the communities, the resource agencies (i.e., the environment) and the transportation system (local, regional, and state-wide).

## **2.2 Potential Tier Two Activities**

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The Tier Two NEPA process will be conducted as a single study addressing the entire corridor. The Tier Two EIS will present further detail on a range of alternatives within the selected corridor identified in Tier One, an evaluation of impacts of the alternatives, and actions for mitigating project impacts to environmental resources. In general, the range of alternatives considered in a Tier Two study will be confined to the selected corridor. However, the flexibility will exist to consider alternatives with minor excursions outside the selected corridor to avoid impacts within the selected corridor not anticipated in the Tier One EIS, or to address context sensitive design issues in a way that does not materially increase overall impacts.

The engineering analysis completed during the Tier One process will be supplemented to verify the general layout, preliminary design and footprint of the project, as well as associated right-of-way requirements. Additionally, Tier Two will include detailed studies of possible methods to avoid and minimize impacts, and where determined unavoidable, to mitigate impacts to environmental resources within the project

footprint. The Tier Two environmental document(s) will serve as the basis for a decision on whether to proceed with the design and possible construction.

In support of the Tier Two analysis, geographic information systems (GIS) data collected during the Tier One process will be used. The comprehensive GIS database encompassing the entire Study Area that has been developed will be incorporated and refined during the Tier Two analysis. Additional data collected from resource agencies and field surveys will be integrated into the GIS database. The GIS database serves as a single source for storing, retrieving, editing/updating, analyzing, and displaying project related information. It provides the ability to create comprehensive environmental resource maps used to first avoid and then minimize impacts as part of the definition of initial alternatives, to the extent practical. The GIS database streamlines the capabilities, quality, and consistency with respect to preparing impact and performance reports in table format for comparative analysis. It also simplifies the ability to prepare public display exhibits as an essential and valuable component of the stakeholder coordination process.

The following table (Table 1) provides a summary by resource topic of the primary data sources used during Tier One analysis and those that will be used during the Tier Two NEPA studies in addition to key elements of the proposed study methodology for each resource

**Table 1. Primary Data Sources and Methodologies**

| <b>Resource Topic</b> | <b>Tier One Data Sources</b>  | <b>Tier Two Data Sources</b>   | <b>Anticipated Methodology</b>  |
|-----------------------|---|--|---|
| Socioeconomic         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GIS database</li> <li>• US Census</li> <li>• Existing planning documents</li> <li>• Windshield survey</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GIS database</li> <li>• US Census</li> <li>• Field surveys</li> <li>• Stakeholder meetings</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conceptual stage relocation studies</li> <li>• Census block level population analysis</li> <li>• Use of economic modeling tools (PRISM™)</li> <li>• Prepare Community Impact Assessment</li> <li>• Environmental Justice Evaluation</li> </ul>   |
| Agricultural          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GIS database</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GIS database</li> <li>• Stakeholder meetings</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete Form AD 1006 and Form NRCS-CPA-106</li> <li>• Assess impacts to agricultural land, farm fields and operations, and conservation program lands</li> <li>• Coordinate with local farm bureaus, Departments of Agriculture and NRCS</li> <li>• Farm Severances</li> <li>• Uneconomical Remnants</li> <li>• Prime Farmland Assessment</li> <li>• Prepare Agricultural Technical Memorandum</li> </ul> |

**Table 1. Primary Data Sources (continued)**

| <b>Resource Topic</b> | <b>Tier One Data Sources</b>  | <b>Tier Two Data Sources</b>  | <b>Anticipated Methodology</b>  |
|-----------------------|---|---|---|
| Cultural Resources    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GIS database</li> <li>• Records search</li> <li>• National, state, and local historic and cultural resource lists, reports and maps</li> <li>• Programmatic Agreement</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Records and literature search</li> <li>• Field surveys and photo documentation of historic structures</li> <li>• Deep testing for archaeological resources</li> <li>• National, state, and local historic and cultural resource lists, reports and maps</li> <li>• Property owner interviews</li> <li>• Agency consultation</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Follow Section 106 process preparing determinations of eligibility and effects assessments</li> <li>• Develop a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) or Programmatic Agreement for handling adverse effects</li> <li>• Prepare Historic Properties Technical Report and Archaeological Resources Investigation Technical Report</li> <li>• Concurrent Section 4(f) for historic properties</li> </ul> |
| Air Quality           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Existing RTP/TIP/SIP information</li> <li>• EPA data</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RTP/TIP/SIP information</li> <li>• EPA data</li> <li>• Traffic data</li> <li>• MOVES inputs from MPOs</li> <li>• Meteorological data</li> <li>• Construction information</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct mesoscale analysis for impacts to regional air quality levels</li> <li>• Conduct microscale analysis to assess possible National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQs) violations</li> <li>• Conduct quantitative Hot Spot Analysis for PM<sub>2.5</sub></li> <li>• Prepare an Air Quality Technical Report</li> </ul>   |
| Noise                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GIS database</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Traffic data (peak hour traffic volumes)</li> <li>• Engineering plan and profile CADD files</li> <li>• Noise receptor modeling</li> <li>• Field noise measurement data</li> <li>• GIS database</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Screening of sensitive land uses</li> <li>• Model traffic noise at select receptors</li> <li>• Assess existing and proposed noise levels at Midwin</li> <li>• Use feasible and reasonable criteria for abatement evaluation</li> <li>• Prepare Noise Monitoring Plan and Noise Receptor Selection Memorandum</li> <li>• Prepare Traffic Noise Technical Report</li> </ul>                      |
| Energy                |   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Traffic data</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Calculate direct energy consumption with EPA MOVES2010 model</li> <li>• Analyze indirect energy consumption using cost estimates and construction energy factors</li> </ul>  |

**Table 1. Primary Data Sources (continued)**

| <b>Resource Topic</b> | <b>Tier One Data Sources</b>                                     | <b>Tier Two Data Sources</b>   | <b>Anticipated Methodology</b>   |
|-----------------------|--|--|--|
| Natural Resources     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GIS database</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GIS database</li> <li>• Field surveys</li> <li>• Existing studies</li> </ul>                        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finalize surveys of T&amp;E Species</li> <li>• Determine potential impacts to T&amp;E species</li> <li>• Assess wildlife and habitat impacts</li> <li>• Assess impacts to neo-tropical and grassland birds</li> <li>• Develop mitigation for impacts to wildlife, habitat, and protected species</li> <li>• Assess impacts to land cover and trees</li> <li>• Coordinate with Midewin</li> </ul>                                    |
| Water Resources       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GIS database</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GIS database</li> <li>• Field surveys and delineations</li> <li>• Water quality sampling</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Perform waters of the U.S. delineations</li> <li>• Complete fish, mussel, and aquatic macro-invertebrate surveys, water quality sampling, and habitat assessments</li> <li>• Perform pollutant loading analysis</li> <li>• Assess potential impacts to water resources</li> <li>• Identify Best Management Practices (BMPs) to minimize impacts to water resources</li> <li>• Prepare Water Resource Technical Report(s)</li> </ul> |
| Groundwater Resources | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GIS database</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GIS database</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify and document groundwater resources</li> <li>• Potable wells assessment</li> </ul>  |
| Floodplains           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GIS database</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GIS database</li> <li>• Field survey and agency databases</li> </ul>                                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify and evaluate existing and proposed floodplain encroachments</li> </ul>   |
| Wetlands              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GIS database</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GIS database</li> <li>• Field surveys and delineations</li> </ul>                                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete formal delineations</li> <li>• Assess project impacts to all wetlands</li> <li>• Identify High Quality sites and assess impacts</li> <li>• Assess avoidance and minimization potential</li> <li>• Develop overall mitigation strategy, differing across state lines.</li> <li>• Wetland Technical Report</li> </ul>  |

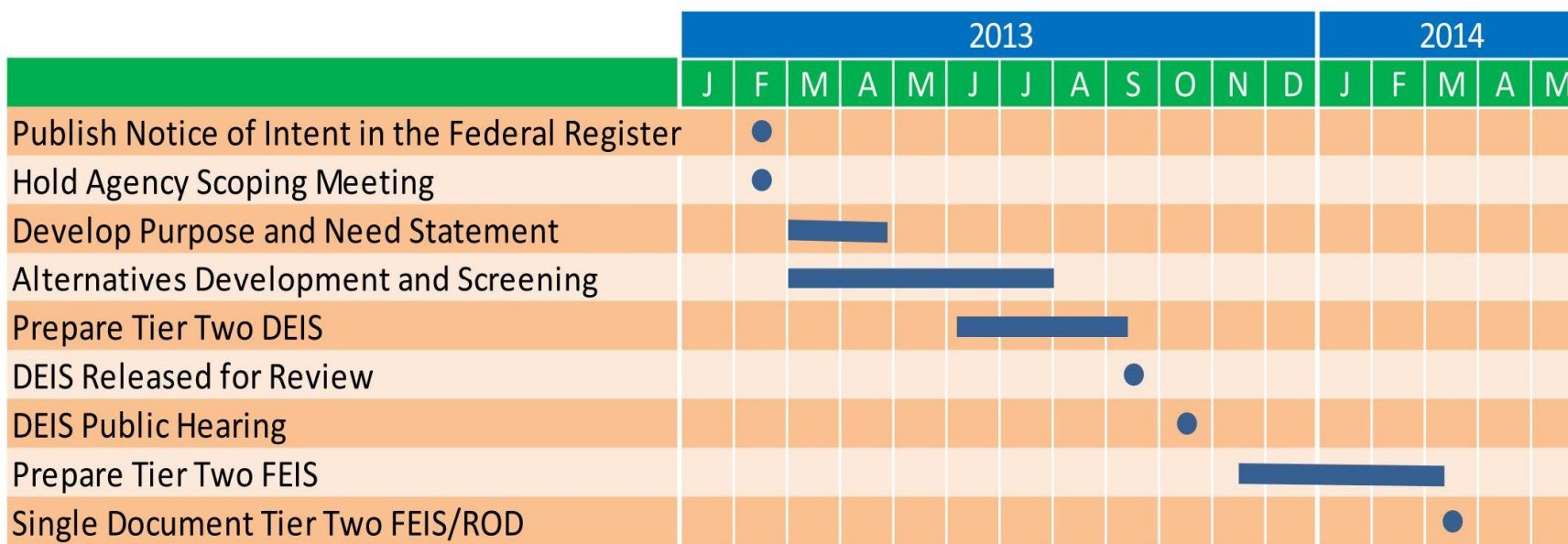
**Table 1. Primary Data Sources (continued)**

| <b>Resource Topic</b>   | <b>Tier One Data Sources</b>   | <b>Tier Two Data Sources</b>   | <b>Anticipated Methodology</b>  |
|-------------------------|--|--|---|
| Special/Hazardous Waste | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regulatory agency databases</li> <li>• GIS database</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regulatory agency databases</li> <li>• GIS database</li> <li>• Field surveys</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Phase I (PESA) study identifying recognized environmental conditions (RECs) (IL)</li> <li>• Prepare ISA Parcel Selection Technical Report and ISA Technical Report for Indiana portion of the corridor</li> </ul>  |
| Section 4(f)            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GIS database</li> <li>• Agency consultation</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GIS database</li> <li>• Agency consultation</li> <li>• Field surveys</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct formal Section 4(f) consultation with officials with jurisdiction</li> <li>• Conduct Section 4(f) evaluation process for any Section 4(f) property involvement</li> <li>• Prepare Section 4(f) Evaluation</li> </ul>   |
| Special Lands           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GIS database</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GIS database</li> <li>• Agency consultation</li> <li>• Field surveys</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify Special Lands (Nature Preserves, etc.) and assess impacts</li> </ul>  |
| Mineral Resources       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GIS database</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GIS database</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Perform geologic condition investigations</li> <li>• Quantify impacts to aggregate resource needs</li> </ul>   |
| Visual Resources        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Windshield survey</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preliminary engineering design</li> <li>• Field surveys</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assess visual impacts using FHWA guidance</li> </ul>   |
| Indirect and Cumulative | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GIS database</li> <li>• Population and employment forecasts</li> <li>• Existing planning documents</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GIS database</li> <li>• Population and employment forecasts</li> <li>• Existing planning documents</li> <li>• Stakeholder interviews</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Land use decision-maker interviews</li> <li>• Analysis of market demand and local zoning ordinances</li> <li>• Coordinate with other resource disciplines for impact estimates</li> <li>• Assess indirect effects on wildlife and potential effect of fugitive light on Calumet Observatory</li> </ul> |

## 2.3 Project Milestone Schedule

The Illiana Corridor study will use the NEPA timeframe agreement process to guide the progress and development of the study. A detailed project milestone schedule for the Illiana Corridor Tier Two DEIS study NEPA timeframe agreement will be developed in cooperation with the FHWA. Figure 2 presents an overview of the proposed project schedule.

Figure 2. Planned Tier Two EIS Schedule



## **3.0 Stakeholder Outreach**

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A Stakeholder Involvement Plan (SIP) for Agency and Public Involvement has been developed for the Illiana Corridor study. Per IDOT and INDOT's Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS) procedures, a stakeholder is anyone who could be affected by the project and has a stake in its outcome. This includes property owners, business owners, state and local officials, special interest groups, and motorists who utilize the facility. Early coordination and/or meetings will be conducted with communities, within the study area, as a means of identifying interested parties and stakeholders.

### **3.1 General Stakeholder Involvement Activities**

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Stakeholder involvement for the Illiana Corridor study will be an ongoing process from project initiation through completion. Stakeholder involvement activities anticipated to occur in the Tier Two studies, and outlined in the draft SIP, include:

- Corridor Planning Group Meetings
- Technical Taskforce Meetings
- Small and Large Group Meetings and Presentations
- Landowner Outreach Program
- Project Website – [www.illianacorridor.org](http://www.illianacorridor.org)
- Project Newsletters and Fact Sheets
- Public Meetings
- Public Hearings (Draft EIS)
- Development and Maintenance of the Project Mailing List
- Public Workshops
- Response to Public Correspondence

### **3.2 Corridor Planning Group/Technical Task Force**

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During Tier One, a bi-state Corridor Planning Group (CPG) was established to assist in the development of the environmental and engineering studies for the Illiana Corridor Study. The CPG consists of community leaders (elected officials and staff from each of the communities and counties in the Study Area) that are directly affected by the study. The responsibilities of this group include providing input to the study process, and reaching a consensus at key project milestones (e.g., project purpose and need, range of alternatives to be advanced for detailed study, and the recommended alternative[s]).

In addition to the CPG, a bi-state Transportation Task Force (TTF) was established in Tier One to provide external subject-matter expertise (Figure 3). The responsibilities of the TTF are to provide input on the planning and design criteria used during the alternatives development process and to verify that any local, state, and federal standards and requirements are addressed within the EIS analysis. The TTF will focus on understanding and resolving more specific technical issues as they arise and report back to the Project Study Group (PSG). These technical issues include:

transportation issues (interchange designs, profiles, right-of-way, engineering, transit, freight, local access, traffic, etc.), and land use/environmental issues (air and noise, mitigation, parks, water quality, historic properties, agriculture, economic development, etc.). The TTF members may include CPG members or designated staff and other governmental bodies, transportation agencies, and interested groups. The TTF members were identified by the PSG, with input from the CPG. Both the CPG and TTF members from Tier One will be invited to participate as part of those groups in Tier Two, and additional members may be added as needs for additional local and regional expertise arise.

**Figure 3. Project Sponsors**



## 4.0 Proposed Bi-State Interagency Coordination Plan

Resource agency coordination for the Tier Two EIS for the Illiana Corridor study will include four components:

1. Scoping.
2. Consultation with individual agencies during data gathering as needed to augment published GIS data.
3. Environmental resource and regulatory agency concurrence at three points, as per agreements related to the merger of the requirements of NEPA and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. These concurrence points are: Statement of Purpose and Need; Alternatives for detailed study; and identification of the Preferred Alternative.

4. An interagency field trip prior to the development of alternatives so that resource agency representatives have a familiarity with resources within the study area that may be impacted by the project.

IDOT has merged NEPA and Section 404 decision-making with a formal process in which environmental resource agencies participate in joint meetings and indicate their concurrence on Purpose and Need, Alternatives to be Carried Forward for Evaluation in the DEIS, and Preferred Alternative, as well as participating in discussions and informational briefings during the NEPA/Section 404 Merger process. IDOT merger team meetings generally occur at four month intervals in June, September, and February. INDOT generally accomplishes the same objectives with one-on-one meetings with environmental resource agencies. The IDOT formal merger process is an essential component of the transportation project development process in Illinois. It is essential that environmental resource agencies in Indiana have an opportunity to share their perspectives with Illinois environmental resource agencies, as well as affirm the final decision at each concurrence point. Therefore, IDOT and INDOT propose that Indiana agencies participate in the Illinois merger process, with the tentative schedule as indicated below in Table 2.

**Table 2. NEPA/Stakeholder Coordination Activities**

| <b>NEPA/Stakeholder Coordination Activity</b>  | <b>Date</b>         |
|--|---------------------|
| <b>NEPA/404 Scoping Meeting</b> – Tier Two process, public involvement, bi-state environmental coordination.   | February 2013       |
| <b>CPG/TTF # 1 – Project Kick off/Scoping</b> – Present Purpose and Need for input, identification of alternatives and evaluation process.   | March 2013          |
| <b>Public Meeting #1 – Illinois and Indiana</b> – Introduction of Tier Two, public involvement opportunities, scoping, solicit comments and additional alternatives.   | April 2013          |
| <b>NEPA/404 Briefing</b> –Purpose and Need concurrence, evaluation process, range of alternatives identified, public involvement process comments.   | April 2013          |
| <b>CPG/TTF #2 – Public Meeting #1 Review</b> Present refined footprint, develop/present initial evaluation, present refined footprint, present added detail for refined transportation performance analysis and engineering, and outline EIS analysis approach   | April 2013          |
| <b>CPG/TTF #3</b> – Present evaluation process, evaluation analysis, and alternatives carried forward into the DEIS. Request comments. Present “footprint” for second round alternatives, added detail for refined transportation performance analysis, GIS evaluation results, and present second round screening results to stakeholders. Identify finalist alternatives for detailed evaluation in the DEIS. Outline EIS analysis approach. | May 2013            |
| <b>Public Meeting #2</b> (Illinois and Indiana) – Evaluation process, alternatives analysis/evaluation, and draft alternatives to carry forward into the DEIS for detailed evaluation. Request comments.   | June 2013           |
| <b>NEPA/404 Briefing or Concurrence Point #2</b> – Concurrence on alternatives to carry forward for detailed evaluation in the DEIS.   | July 2013           |
| <b>CPG/TTF #4 – Public meeting #2 review</b> and DEIS Analysis summary.  | August 2013         |
| <b>Release DEIS for public comment.</b>  | September 2013      |
| <b>Public Hearings for DEIS</b> – Illinois and Indiana   | October 2013        |
| <b>CPG/TTF #5</b> – Public Hearing and DEIS comment review. Impact data and mitigation options. Present technical recommendation of preferred alternative.   | December 2013       |
| <b>NEPA/404 Concurrence</b> – Review of Public Hearings, comments, and status of Preferred Alternative.  | February 2014       |
| <b>Release of a Combined FEIS and ROD</b>  | February/March 2014 |

## Cooperating / Participating Agency Response

Accept: \_\_\_\_\_

Do **Not** Accept: \_\_\_\_\_

Reason(s) for not accepting:

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Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



| <i>First Name</i> | <i>Last Name</i> | <i>Affiliation</i>  | <i>Address 1</i>                | <i>Address 2</i> | <i>City</i> | <i>State</i> | <i>Zip</i> |
|-------------------|------------------|---|---------------------------------|------------------|-------------|--------------|------------|
| Barry             | Cooper           | Federal Aviation Administration, Great Lakes Region                                 | 2300 East Devon Avenue          |                  | Des Plaines | IL           | 60018      |
| Soren             | Hall             | US Army Corps of Engineers (Chicago District)                                       | 111 N. Canal Street             | Suite 600        | Chicago     | IL           | 60606      |
| David             | Orzechowski      | 8th US Coast Guard District   | Attn: Bridge Branch (DWB)       | 1222 Spruce St   | St. Louis   | MO           | 63104      |
| Dave              | White            | US Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service                | 1400 Independence Ave., SW      | Room 5105-A      | Washington  | DC           | 20250      |
| Wade              | Spang            | US Department of Agriculture, US Forest Service (Prairie Supervisor)                | 30239 S State Route 53          |                  | Wilmington  | IL           | 60481      |
| Shawn             | Cirton           | US Fish and Wildlife Service (Chicago)  | 1250 South Grove, Suite 103     |                  | Barrington  | IL           | 60010      |
| Scott             | Pruitt           | US Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service (Bloomington Field Office) | 620 South Walker Street         |                  | Bloomington | IN           | 47403-2121 |
| Ken               | Westlake         | US Environmental Protection Agency, Region V, Office of Environmental Review        | 77 West Jackson Boulevard B-19J |                  | Chicago     | IL           | 60604-3590 |



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF:

**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
CHICAGO DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
111 NORTH CANAL STREET  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60606-7206

March 11, 2013

Technical Services Division  
Regulatory Branch  
LRC-2011-00344

SUBJECT: NEPA/404 Merger Process Cooperating and Participating Agency in the Review of the Environmental Impact Statement for the Illiana Corridor Tier II EIS in Will County, Illinois and Lake County, Indiana

Norman Stoner  
Federal Highway Administration  
3250 Executive Park Drive  
Springfield, Illinois 62703

Dear Mr. Stoner:

This office is in receipt of your March 8, 2013 letter requesting the participation of the Chicago District U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as a cooperating and participating agency in the review of the environmental impact statement (EIS) for the Illiana Corridor Project. The Corps cordially accepts the invitation to participate as a cooperating and participating agency in the review of the EIS for the Illiana Corridor Project and looks forward to working closely with Federal and other lead agencies.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Soren Hall of my staff by telephone at 312-846-5532, or email at [Soren.G.Hall@usace.army.mil](mailto:Soren.G.Hall@usace.army.mil).

Sincerely,

Keith L. Wozniak  
Chief, West Section  
Regulatory Branch

Copy Furnished:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (Norm West)  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Shawn Cirton)  
Illinois Department of Natural Resources (Steve Hamer)  
Federal Highway Administration (Matt Fuller)



## United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
Chicago Ecological Services Field Office  
1250 South Grove Avenue, Suite 103  
Barrington, Illinois 60010  
Phone: (847) 381-2253 Fax: (847) 381-2285

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
FWS/AES-CIFO/

March 14, 2013

Matt Fuller  
Environmental Programs Engineer  
USDOT Federal Highway Administration  
3250 Executive Park Drive  
Springfield, IL 62703

Dear Mr. Fuller:

This responds to your request for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) to be a participating and cooperating agency with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT), and the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) in the development of a Tier Two Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Illiana Corridor project. The Tier Two EIS will include an analysis of alignments within the selected corridor, preparation of a draft EIS, and a combined final EIS and Record of Decision (ROD) that will disclose potential environmental and social effects of the proposed improvements, in addition to measures to minimize or mitigate unavoidable impacts associated with the project.

The Service accepts your request to serve as a participating and cooperating agency for this project, to the degree that time and resources permit. We will provide technical assistance in the manner that you requested, specifically:

1. We will provide meaningful and early input on refining the purpose and need developed during Tier One, determining the range of alternatives to be studied in Tier Two, and the methodologies and level of detail required in the alternatives analysis; and
2. We will participate in coordination meetings and joint field reviews, as appropriate.

The Service's acceptance of participating and cooperating agency status does not necessarily imply endorsement or support of the project or of a particular alternative. The intent of our acceptance of participating and cooperating agency status is to ensure that significant environmental issues are identified as early as possible in the planning process and that throughout the multiple stages of the planning process, decision makers have the environmental information necessary to make informed and timely decisions. The Service has various statutory authorities and responsibilities. Participating or cooperating agency status neither enlarges nor diminishes the decision-making authority of any agency involved in the NEPA process (CEQ memorandum of January 30, 2002).

We look forward to working closely with the FHWA, IDOT, INDOT, and other cooperating agencies as the planning of this project goes forward. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Shawn Cirton at 847/381-2253, ext. 19, for matters in the Illinois portion of the study area, or Elizabeth McCloskey at 219/983-9753, for matters in the Indiana portion of the study area.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Louise Clemency". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Louise Clemency  
Field Supervisor

cc: USFWS, Pruitt, McCloskey  
USEPA, Westlake, West  
USACOE, Chernich, Hall



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 5

77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD

CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

MAR 15 2013

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF:  
mailcode E-19J

Matthew Fuller  
Environmental Programs Engineer  
Federal Highway Administration, Illinois Division  
3250 Executive Park Drive  
Springfield, Illinois 62703

**RE: Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Invitation for the EPA to be a  
Cooperating Agency for the Illinois and Indiana Departments of  
Transportation Illiana Corridor Tier II NEPA Study**

Dear Mr. Fuller:

The United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5 (EPA) has received your invitation of February 2013, regarding being a Cooperating Agency for the above project. Because EPA has expertise concerning the nation's natural resources and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents, we do have an interest in this project.

Pursuant to the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU), (MAP-21) and in keeping with our responsibilities under the NEPA and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act, we accept the invitation to be a Cooperating Agency for this project, to the degree time and resources permit, in the manner you requested. Specifically, we will:

1. provide meaningful early input to defining the purpose and need, the range of alternatives to be considered in detail, methodologies and level of detail for alternatives analysis;
2. Participate in coordination meetings and appropriate field reviews;
3. Provide timely review and comment on pre-, draft and final environmental documents.

We look forward to continuing discussion of the issues involved in this project along with the preparations for and review of the draft Environmental Impact Statement. Feel free to contact me at 312-886-2910 / westlake.kenneth@epa.gov or my staff members Norm West and Liz Pelloso, at 312-353-5692 / west.norman@epa.gov or 312-886-7425 / pelloso.elizabeth@epa.gov respectively, with further information or inquiries regarding this project.

Sincerely,

Kenneth A. Westlake  
Chief, NEPA Implementation Section  
Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Midwin National  
Tallgrass Prairie

30239 South State Route 53  
Wilmington, IL 60481  
(815) 423-6370

File Code: 1900

Date: APR 10 2013

**RECEIVED**

APR 15 2013

**FHWA**

Matt Fuller  
Environmental Program Engineer  
USDOT Federal Highways Administration  
3250 Executive Park Drive  
Springfield, IL 62703

Dear Mr. Fuller

This responds to your request for the Midwin National Tallgrass Prairie to be a Cooperating and Participating Agency with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT), and the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) in the development of the Two Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Illiana Corridor project.

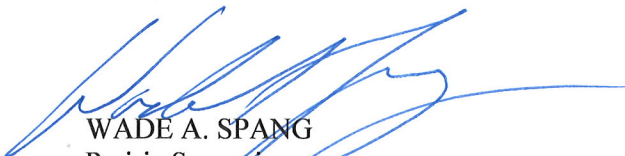
The Midwin National Tallgrass Prairie accepts your request to be a Cooperating and Participating unit for this project. To the degree that time and resources permit we plan to:

- Provide input on refining the purpose and need developed during Tier One.
- Assist in the determining the range of alternatives to be studied in Tier Two and the methodologies and level of detail required in the alternatives analysis.
- Participate in coordination meetings and joint field reviews, as appropriate.

The Midwin National Tallgrass Prairie has several authorities and responsibilities as it pertains to being a Cooperating or Participating unit. One of those is our acceptance of the Cooperating and Participating status does not imply endorsement or support of the project or of a particular alternative. The intent of our acceptance of this status is to ensure that our concerns are identified and addressed throughout the planning process so the decision makers have the information necessary to make informed decisions.

We look forward to working closely with the FHWA, IDOT, INDOT, and other cooperating agencies as this project moves forward. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Robert Hommes at (815) 423-6370.

Sincerely,

  
WADE A. SPANG  
Prairie Supervisor  
Midwin National Tallgrass Prairie

cc: Robert A Hommes





U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**Federal Highway  
Administration**

**Illinois Division**

March 8, 2013

3250 Executive Park Dr.  
Springfield, IL 62703  
(217) 492-4640  
[www.fhwa.dot.gov/ildiv](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/ildiv)

In Reply Refer To:  
HPER-IL

Mr. John M. Fowler  
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation  
1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, Suite 803  
Washington, DC 20004

Subject: Illiana Corridor Tier Two Environmental Impact Statement:  
Participating Agency Request

Dear Mr. Fowler:

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), in cooperation with the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) and the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT), is initiating a Tier Two Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Illiana Corridor Project.

The FHWA, IDOT, and INDOT have identified your agency as one that may have an interest in the project. Therefore, with this letter, FHWA, IDOT, and INDOT invite your agency to become a Participating Agency in the development of the Tier Two EIS for the Illiana Corridor. The designation does not imply that your agency either supports the proposed project or has any special expertise with respect to evaluation of the project.

The FHWA, IDOT and INDOT propose that your agency's role in the development of the above project should include the following as they relate to your area of expertise:

1. Provide meaningful and early input on refining the purpose and need developed during Tier One, determining the range of alternatives to be studied in Tier Two, and the methodologies and level of detail required in the alternatives analysis; and
2. Participate in coordination meetings and joint field reviews, as appropriate.

Please provide a response to our request prior to April 10, 2013.

Pursuant to Title 23, Section 139, if your agency does not respond to the invitation to be a participating agency in writing, then FHWA, IDOT and INDOT will consider your agency to be a Participating Agency. If your agency declines to be a Participating Agency, the response should state your reason for declining the invitation.

For the Tier Two EIS, the Corridor B3 study area is an approximately 2,000-foot-wide, 47-mile-long east-west corridor with a western terminus at Interstate 55 just north of the City of Wilmington in Illinois and an eastern terminus at Interstate 65 approximately three miles north of State Route 2 in Indiana.

The Tier Two EIS includes analysis of alignments within the selected corridor, preparation of a draft EIS and a single document, a combined final EIS and Record of Decision (ROD) that will disclose potential environmental and social effects of the proposed improvements in addition to measures to minimize or mitigate unavoidable impacts associated with the project. The ROD will identify the selected alternative to be implemented.

The goal of the Tier Two EIS is to ensure that the selected alternative adequately balances the needs of the communities, the environment, and the transportation system (local, regional, and statewide).

Enclosed is a copy of the Illiana Corridor Tier Two EIS scoping document, which was issued pursuant to a project scoping meeting held on February 22, 2013. We also invite you to review the Stakeholder Involvement Plan, available on the following website:

[http://illianacorridor.org/information\\_center/library\\_tier\\_two.aspx](http://illianacorridor.org/information_center/library_tier_two.aspx)

The purpose of the Stakeholder Involvement Plan is to facilitate and document the lead agencies' structured interaction with the public and other agencies and to inform them of how coordination will be accomplished. We invite you to provide written comments on these documents at the below listed address prior to April 10, 2013.

Katie Kukielka, P.E.  
IDOT PMC Project Manager  
201 West Center Court  
Schaumburg, IL 60196

If you have any questions or would like to discuss in more detail the project or our agencies' respective roles and responsibilities during the preparation of this EIS, please contact me at (217) 492-4625. Thank you for your cooperation and interest in this project.

Sincerely,



Matt Fuller  
Environmental Programs Engineer

Enclosure

Ecc: Mr. Walter Zyzniueski, Bureau of Design and Environment, IDOT  
Mr. Steven Schilke, District 1, IDOT  
Ms. Kesti Susinskas, District 1, IDOT  
Ms. Laura Hilden, Director, Environmental Services INDOT  
Mr. James Earl (INDOT)  
Mr. Ken McMullen, Manager-Environmental Policy, INDOT

## Participating Agency Response

Accept: \_\_\_\_\_

Do **Not** Accept: \_\_\_\_\_

Reason(s) for not accepting:

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Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



| <i>Title</i> | <i>First Name</i> | <i>Last Name</i> | <i>Affiliation</i>                        | <i>Address 1</i>            | <i>Address 2</i> | <i>City</i> | <i>State</i> | <i>Zip</i> |
|--------------|-------------------|------------------|---|-----------------------------|------------------|-------------|--------------|------------|
| Mr.          | John M.           | Fowler           | Advisory Council on Historic Preservation | 1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, N | Suite 803        | Washington  | DC           | 20004      |
| Mr.          | Joseph            | Szabo            | Federal Railroad Administration           | 1200 New Jersey Ave., SE    |                  | Washington  | DC           | 20590      |



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**Federal Railroad  
Administration**

**RECEIVED**

MAY 03 2013

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**FHWA**

APR 30 2013

Matt Fuller  
Environmental Programs Engineer  
Federal Highways Administration  
3250 Executive Park Dr.  
Springfield, IL 62730

Dear Mr. Fuller:

This is in response to the correspondence to Administrator Joe Szabo on March 8, 2013 inviting the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) to act as a participating agency with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) the Illinois Department of Transportation (IL DOT) and the Indiana Department of Transportation (IN DOT), in the development of the Tier Two Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Illiana Corridor Project.

Thank you for your invitation. The designation of Participating Agency does not imply that FRA supports or has special expertise with respect to evaluation of this Project. In accordance with 23 U.S.C. Section 139 as a Participating Agency FRA will (1.) Provide meaningful and early input on refining the purpose and need developed during Tier One, determining the range of alternatives to be studied in Tier Two, and the methodologies and the level of detail required in the alternatives analysis; and (2.) Participate in coordination meetings and joint field reviews, as appropriate.

Ms. Andrea Martin, Environmental Protection Specialist in the Office of Railroad Policy and Development, of my staff is hereby designated as the primary point of contact for the Project. Ms. Martin can be reached at (202) 493-6201, email; [andrea.martin@dot.gov](mailto:andrea.martin@dot.gov).

We look forward to working with FHWA, IL DOT and IN DOT in the development of the Tier Two Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Illiana Corridor Project.

Sincerely,

David Valenstein  
Division Chief, Environment and Systems Planning  
Federal Railroad Administration



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**Federal Highway  
Administration**

**Illinois Division**

March 8, 2013

3250 Executive Park Dr.  
Springfield, IL 62703  
(217) 492-4640  
[www.fhwa.dot.gov/ildiv](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/ildiv)

In Reply Refer To:  
HPER-IL

Mr. Joseph M. Kelsey  
Indiana State Department of Agriculture  
One North Capitol  
Ste. 600  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Subject: Illiana Corridor Tier Two Environmental Impact Statement:  
Cooperating and Participating Agency Request

Dear Mr. Kelsey:

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), in cooperation with the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) and the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT), is initiating a Tier Two Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Illiana Corridor Project.

The FHWA, IDOT, and INDOT have identified your agency as one that may have jurisdiction by law over the proposed action or have special expertise with respect to environmental resources affected by the project and have an interest in the project. Therefore, with this letter, FHWA, IDOT, and INDOT invite your agency to become a Cooperating and Participating Agency in the development of the Tier Two EIS for the Illiana Corridor. The designation does not imply that your agency either supports the proposed project or has any special expertise with respect to evaluation of the project.

The FHWA, IDOT and INDOT propose that your agency's role in the development of the above project should include the following as they relate to your area of expertise:

1. Provide meaningful and early input on refining the purpose and need developed during Tier One, determining the range of alternatives to be studied in Tier Two, and the methodologies and level of detail required in the alternatives analysis; and
2. Participate in coordination meetings and joint field reviews, as appropriate.

Please provide a response to our request prior to April 10, 2013.

Pursuant to Title 23, Section 139, FHWA, IDOT, and INDOT must receive a written response in order to consider your agency a participating agency. If your agency declines to be a Participating Agency, the response should state your reason for declining the invitation.

Additionally, to consider your agency as a Cooperating Agency, FHWA, IDOT, and INDOT must receive a response from your agency agreeing to engage in the project in this role. If your agency declines to be a Cooperating Agency, please indicate the reason for declining this request and provide a copy to the Council on Environmental Quality pursuant to 40 CFR 1501.6(c).

For the Tier Two EIS, the Corridor B3 study area is an approximately 2,000-foot-wide, 47-mile-long east-west corridor with a western terminus at Interstate 55 just north of the City of Wilmington in Illinois and an eastern terminus at Interstate 65 approximately three miles north of State Route 2 in Indiana.

The Tier Two EIS includes analysis of alignments within the selected corridor, preparation of a draft EIS and a Single Document, a combined final EIS and Record of Decision (ROD) that will disclose potential environmental and social effects of the proposed improvements in addition to measures to minimize or mitigate unavoidable impacts associated with the project. The ROD will identify the selected alternative to be implemented.

The goal of the Tier Two EIS is to ensure that the selected alternative adequately balances the needs of the communities, the environment, and the transportation system (local, regional, and state-wide).

Enclosed is a copy of the Illiana Corridor Tier Two EIS scoping document, which was issued pursuant to a project scoping meeting held on February 22, 2013. We also invite you to review the Stakeholder Involvement Plan, available on the following website:

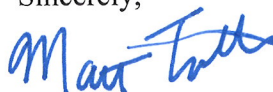
[http://illianacorridor.org/information\\_center/library\\_tier\\_two.aspx](http://illianacorridor.org/information_center/library_tier_two.aspx)

The purpose of the Stakeholder Involvement Plan is to facilitate and document the lead agencies' structured interaction with the public and other agencies and to inform them of how coordination will be accomplished. We invite you to provide written comments on these documents at the below listed address prior to April 10, 2013.

Katie Kukielka P.E.  
IDOT PMC Project Manager  
201 West Center Court  
Schaumburg, IL 60196

If you have any questions or would like to discuss in more detail the project or our agencies' respective roles and responsibilities during the preparation of this EIS, please contact me at (217) 492-4625. Thank you for your cooperation and interest in this project.

Sincerely,



Matt Fuller  
Environmental Programs Engineer

Enclosure

Ecc: Mr. Walter Zyzniueski, Bureau of Design and Environment, IDOT  
Mr. Steven Schilke, District 1, IDOT  
Ms. Kesti Susinskas, District 1, IDOT  
Ms. Laura Hilden, Director, Environmental Services INDOT  
Mr. James Earl, INDOT  
Mr. Ken McMullen, Manager-Environmental Policy, INDOT

| <i>First Name</i> | <i>Last Name</i> | <i>Affiliation</i>   | <i>Address 1</i>                 | <i>Address 2</i> | <i>City</i>  | <i>State</i> | <i>Zip</i> |
|-------------------|------------------|--|----------------------------------|------------------|--------------|--------------|------------|
| Steve             | Chard            | Illinois Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Land and Water Resources     | 801 Sangamon Ave, P.O. Box 19281 | AG BLDG FL 001   | Springfield  | IL           | 62794      |
| Steve             | Hamer            | Illinois Department of Natural Resources                                   | 1 Natural Resources Way          |                  | Springfield  | IL           | 62702-1271 |
| Dan               | Heacock          | Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, Bureau of Water                  | 1021 N. Grand Avenue East        | P.O. Box 19276   | Springfield  | IN           | 62794      |
| Anne              | Haaker           | Illinois Historic Preservation Agency                                      | 1 Old State Capitol Plaza        |                  | Springfield  | IL           | 62701      |
| Kent              | Sims             | Illinois Natural Resources Conservation Service, Chicago Metro Office      | 603 East Diehl Road              | Suite 131        | Naperville   | IL           | 60563-1476 |
| Thomas            | Easterly         | Indiana Department of Environmental Management                             | 100 N. Senate Avenue             | Mail Code 50-01  | Indianapolis | IN           | 46204      |
| Robert            | Carter, Jr.      | Indiana Department of Natural Resources                                    | 402 W. Washington Street         | Room W256        | Indianapolis | IN           | 46204      |
| James A.          | Glass            | Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Historic Preservation | 402 West Washington Street       | Room W274        | Indianapolis | IN           | 46204      |
| Joseph M.         | Kelsey           | Indiana State Department of Agriculture                                    | One North Capitol                | Suite 600        | Indianapolis | IN           | 46204      |



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**Federal Highway  
Administration**

**Illinois Division**

March 8, 2013

3250 Executive Park Dr.  
Springfield, IL 62703  
(217) 492-4640  
[www.fhwa.dot.gov/ildiv](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/ildiv)

In Reply Refer To:  
HPER-IL

Ms. Anne Haaker  
Illinois Historic Preservation Agency  
1 Old State Capitol Plaza  
Springfield, IL 62701

Subject: Illiana Corridor Tier Two Environmental Impact Statement:  
Cooperating and Participating Agency Request

Dear Ms. Haaker:

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), in cooperation with the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) and the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT), is initiating a Tier Two Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Illiana Corridor Project.

The FHWA, IDOT, and INDOT have identified your agency as one that may have jurisdiction by law over the proposed action or have special expertise with respect to environmental resources affected by the project and have an interest in the project. Therefore, with this letter, FHWA, IDOT, and INDOT invite your agency to become a Cooperating and Participating Agency in the development of the Tier Two EIS for the Illiana Corridor. The designation does not imply that your agency either supports the proposed project or has any special expertise with respect to evaluation of the project.

The FHWA, IDOT and INDOT propose that your agency's role in the development of the above project should include the following as they relate to your area of expertise:

1. Provide meaningful and early input on refining the purpose and need developed during Tier One, determining the range of alternatives to be studied in Tier Two, and the methodologies and level of detail required in the alternatives analysis; and
2. Participate in coordination meetings and joint field reviews, as appropriate.

Please provide a response to our request prior to April 10, 2013.

Pursuant to Title 23, Section 139, FHWA, IDOT, and INDOT must receive a written response in order to consider your agency a participating agency. If your agency declines to be a Participating Agency, the response should state your reason for declining the invitation.

Additionally, to consider your agency as a Cooperating Agency, FHWA, IDOT, and INDOT must receive a response from your agency agreeing to engage in the project in this role. If your agency declines to be a Cooperating Agency, please indicate the reason for declining this request and provide a copy to the Council on Environmental Quality pursuant to 40 CFR 1501.6(c).

For the Tier Two EIS, the Corridor B3 study area is an approximately 2,000-foot-wide, 47-mile-long east-west corridor with a western terminus at Interstate 55 just north of the City of Wilmington in Illinois and an eastern terminus at Interstate 65 approximately three miles north of State Route 2 in Indiana.

The Tier Two EIS includes analysis of alignments within the selected corridor, preparation of a draft EIS and a Single Document, a combined final EIS and Record of Decision (ROD) that will disclose potential environmental and social effects of the proposed improvements in addition to measures to minimize or mitigate unavoidable impacts associated with the project. The ROD will identify the selected alternative to be implemented.

The goal of the Tier Two EIS is to ensure that the selected alternative adequately balances the needs of the communities, the environment, and the transportation system (local, regional, and state-wide).

Enclosed is a copy of the Illiana Corridor Tier Two EIS scoping document, which was issued pursuant to a project scoping meeting held on February 22, 2013. We also invite you to review the Stakeholder Involvement Plan, available on the following website:

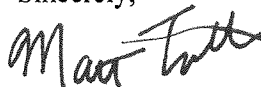
[http://illianacorridor.org/information\\_center/library\\_tier\\_two.aspx](http://illianacorridor.org/information_center/library_tier_two.aspx)

The purpose of the Stakeholder Involvement Plan is to facilitate and document the lead agencies' structured interaction with the public and other agencies and to inform them of how coordination will be accomplished. We invite you to provide written comments on these documents at the below listed address prior to April 10, 2013.

Katie Kukiela P.E.  
IDOT PMC Project Manager  
201 West Center Court  
Schaumburg, IL 60196

If you have any questions or would like to discuss in more detail the project or our agencies' respective roles and responsibilities during the preparation of this EIS, please contact me at (217) 492-4625. Thank you for your cooperation and interest in this project.


Sincerely,



Matt Fuller  
Environmental Programs Engineer

Enclosure

Ecc: Mr. Walter Zyzniueski, Bureau of Design and Environment, IDOT  
Mr. Steven Schilke, District 1, IDOT  
Ms. Kesti Susinskas, District 1, IDOT  
Ms. Laura Hilden, Director, Environmental Services INDOT  
Mr. James Earl, INDOT  
Mr. Ken McMullen, Manager-Environmental Policy, INDOT

*we accept*  
**CONCUR**  
By:   
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer  
Date: 3/11/13

Q-036



## Illinois Department of Natural Resources

One Natural Resources Way Springfield, Illinois 62702-1271  
www.dnr.illinois.gov

Pat Quinn, Governor  
Marc Miller, Director

March 15, 2013

Matt Fuller  
U.S. Dept. Of Transportation  
3250 Executive Dr.  
Springfield, Illinois 62703

RE: IDNR Cooperating Agency  
Illiana Corridor Tier Two  
Environmental Impact  
Statement

Dear Mr. Fuller:

Thank you for the opportunity to participate as a Cooperating Agency in the development of the Environmental Impact Statement for the above referenced project. It is important that the Illinois Department of Natural Resources be involved in the review process to assure resource protection and compliance with the state Endangered Species Protection Act and the Interagency Wetlands Policy Act of 1989.

Please address all correspondence and meeting agendas to Mr. Steve Hamer of the Office of Realty and Environmental Planning, Division of Ecosystems and Environment at One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, Illinois 62702-1271.

Sincerely,

Steve Hamer  
Ecosystems and Environment  
Office of Realty & Environmental Planning  
Illinois Department of Natural Resources

cc: File

**RECEIVED**

MAR 20 2013

**FHWA**

Q-037

**From:** [Kukielka, Katie L.](#)  
**To:** [Lyne, Jamy L.](#); [Cate, Meredith](#); [Simes, Randy A.](#); "[tracy.morse@imagesinc.net](mailto:tracy.morse@imagesinc.net)"; "[cathy.valente@imagesinc.net](mailto:cathy.valente@imagesinc.net)"  
**Subject:** FW: Accept Participating Agency Request for Illiana Corridor Tier Two Environmental Impact Statement  
**Date:** Thursday, March 21, 2013 3:55:32 PM

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Please see attached e-mail from the Illinois Department of Agriculture. This serves as their acceptance to becoming a PA of the Illiana Corridor EIS. Please record in the project record and update the SIP accordingly.

Thanks!  
Katie

---

**From:** Matt.Fuller@dot.gov [mailto:Matt.Fuller@dot.gov]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 21, 2013 1:43 PM  
**To:** dennis.bachman@dot.gov; Hine, Mike; jearl@indot.in.gov; Kukielka, Katie L.; Ihilden@indot.in.gov; KMC MULLEN@indot.IN.gov; Joyce.Newland@dot.gov; ramponera@pbworld.com; Schilke, Steven E; Zyzniwski, Walter G  
**Subject:** FW: Accept Participating Agency Request for Illiana Corridor Tier Two Environmental Impact Statement

Please add as CA/PA into SIP...and include in project record.

---

**From:** Savko, Terry [mailto:Terry.Savko@Illinois.gov]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 21, 2013 1:39 PM  
**To:** Fuller, Matt (FHWA)  
**Cc:** Chard, Steve  
**Subject:** Accept Participating Agency Request for Illiana Corridor Tier Two Environmental Impact Statement

Mr. Fuller:

The Federal Highway Administration, in cooperation with the Illinois Department of Transportation and the Indiana Department of Transportation, is initiating a Tier Two Environmental Impact Statement for the Illiana Corridor Project. For the Tier Two EIS, the Corridor B3 study area is a ±2,000 foot wide, 47 mile long east-west corridor with a western terminus at Interstate 55 just north of the City of Wilmington in Illinois and an eastern terminus at Interstate 65 approximately three miles north of State Route 2 in Indiana.

The Illinois Department of Agriculture accepts your invitation to become a participating agency in the development of the Illiana Corridor Environmental Impact Statement.

---

**Terry Savko, IL Dept of Agriculture**  
**Bureau of Land and Water Resources**  
State Fairgrounds, P.O. Box 19281, Springfield, IL 62794-9281  
**217-785-4458** Fax 217-557-0993 [terry.savko@illinois.gov](mailto:terry.savko@illinois.gov)

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**From:** [Illinois.FHWA@dot.gov](#) [mailto:Illinois.FHWA@dot.gov]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 11, 2013 9:44 AM

**To:** Chard, Steve

**Cc:** Zyznieuski, Walter G; Schilke, Steven E; Susinskas, Kesti P.; [lhilden@indot.in.gov](mailto:lhilden@indot.in.gov);  
[jearl@indot.in.gov](mailto:jearl@indot.in.gov); [kmcmullen@indot.in.gov](mailto:kmcmullen@indot.in.gov)

**Subject:** Illiana Corridor Tier Two Environmental Impact Statement/Cooperating and Participating Agency Request

Please see attached correspondence.

March 8, 2013

Mr./Ms. NAME

TITLE

COMMUNITY/ORGANIZATION NAME

ADDRESS LINE 1

ADDRESS LINE 2

RE: Illiana Corridor Tier Two Environmental Impact Statement:  
**Participating Agency Request**

Dear NAME:

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), in cooperation with the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) and the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT), is initiating a Tier Two Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Illiana Corridor Project.

A Tier One EIS was prepared to resolve issues regarding the transportation mode, facility type, and general location and resulted in the identification of Corridor B3 as the selected corridor to be carried forward with the no-action alternative for further evaluation in the Tier Two National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) studies. The Tier One EIS and Record of Decision (ROD) were issued concurrently under the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21) legislation and were signed by the FHWA on January 17, 2013.

For the Tier Two EIS, the Corridor B3 study area is an approximately 2,000-foot-wide, 47-mile-long east-west corridor with a western terminus at I-55 just north of the City of Wilmington in Illinois and an eastern terminus at I-65 approximately three miles north of State Route 2 in Indiana.

The Tier Two EIS includes analysis of alignments within the selected corridor, preparation of a draft and final EIS that will disclose potential environmental and social effects of the proposed improvements in addition to measures to minimize or mitigate unavoidable impacts associated with the project. The Tier Two Final EIS will conclude with a ROD by FHWA which will identify the Selected Alternative.

The goal of the Tier Two EIS is to ensure that the Selected Alternative adequately balances the needs of the communities, the resources agencies (i.e. the environment) and the transportation system (local, regional, and state-wide).

The FHWA, IDOT, and INDOT, as joint lead agencies for this project, are responsible for identifying federal, state and local agencies that may have an interest in the project and inviting those entities to be Participating agencies. Pursuant to Section 139 of Title 23 of the United States Code, Participating agencies are responsible to identify, as early as possible, any issues of concern regarding the project's potential environmental or socioeconomic impacts that could substantially delay or prevent an agency from granting a permit or other approval that is needed for the project.

The FHWA, IDOT, and INDOT have identified **NAME** as an agency that may have an interest in the project. Therefore, with this letter, FHWA, IDOT, and INDOT invite **NAME** to become a **Participating Agency** in the development of the Tier Two EIS for the Illiana Corridor. The designation does not imply that your agency either supports the proposed project or has any special expertise with respect to evaluation of the project.

FHWA, IDOT and INDOT propose that your agency's role in the development of the above project should include the following as they relate to your area of expertise:

1. Provide meaningful and early input on refining the purpose and need developed during Tier One, determining the range of alternatives to be studied during Tier Two, and the methodologies and level of detail required in the alternatives analysis; and;
2. Participate in coordination meetings and joint field reviews, as appropriate.

Attached to this letter, you will find a form that will allow you to check a response to either accept or decline the offer to become a Participating Agency. Please check the response that is appropriate for you, and return this form using the enclosed self-addressed, stamped envelope prior to April 10, 2013. If your agency declines to be a Participating Agency, the response should state your reason for declining the invitation.

We are also enclosing a copy of the Illiana Corridor Tier Two EIS scoping document, which was issued pursuant to a project scoping meeting held at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) offices at 77 W. Jackson Blvd, Chicago, Illinois on February 22, 2013. We invite you to provide separate written comments on this document at the below listed address prior to April 10, 2013.

Katie Kukielka, P.E.  
IDOT PMC Project Manager  
201 West Center Court  
Schaumburg, IL 60196

March 8, 2013

Page 3

If your agency does not accept the invitation to be a Participating agency in writing, then FHWA, IDOT and INDOT will not consider **NAME** to be a participating agency.

Additionally, a link to the Illiana Corridor Tier Two Stakeholder Involvement Plan (SIP) has been provided for your reference. The SIP will be updated on the Illiana Corridor website periodically throughout Tier Two.

[http://illianacorridor.org/information\\_center/library\\_tier\\_two.aspx](http://illianacorridor.org/information_center/library_tier_two.aspx)

If you have any questions or would like to discuss in more detail the project or our agencies' respective roles and responsibilities during the preparation of this EIS, please contact Katie Kukielka at IDOT at 847-705-4126, or Jim Pinkerton at INDOT at 219-325-7455.

Thank you for your cooperation and interest in this project.

Sincerely,

John Fortmann, P.E.  
Acting Deputy Director of Highways,  
Region One Engineer  
Illinois Department of Transportation

James A. Earl II, P.E.  
Project Manager  
Indiana Department of Transportation

Enclosure

| <i>Title</i> | <i>First Name</i> | <i>Last Name</i> | <i>Affiliation</i>                                      | <i>Address 1</i>           | <i>Address 2</i>         | <i>City</i>       | <i>State</i> | <i>Zip</i> | <i>Phone Num</i>   |
|--------------|-------------------|------------------|---|----------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|--------------|------------|--------------------|
| Honorable    | Alice             | Dahl             | Cedar Creek Township                                    | 151 Fremont St.            |                          | Lowell            | IN           | 46356      | 219-696-9713       |
| Honorable    | Paul              | Bremer           | Center Township   | 1450 E. Joliet Street      | Condo A, Suite 103       | Crown Point       | IN           | 46307      | 219-663-0250       |
| Honorable    | Lawrence          | Troutman         | Channahon Township                                      | 25461 S. Fryer Street      | P.O. Box 456             | Channahon         | IL           | 60410      | 815-467-2569       |
| Mr.          | Randy             | Blankenhorn      | Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning                | 233 South Wacker Drive     | Suite 800                | Chicago           | IL           | 60606      | 312-386-8600       |
| Honorable    | Bill              | Rulien           | City of Braidwood                                       | 141 W. Main Street         |                          | Braidwood         | IL           | 60408      | 815-458-2333 x 200 |
| Honorable    | David             | Uran             | City of Crown Point                                     | 101 North East Street      |                          | Crown Point       | IN           | 46307      | 219-662-3240       |
| Honorable    | Tom               | Giarrante        | City of Joliet  | 150 West Jefferson Street  |                          | Joliet            | IL           | 60432      | 815-724-3700       |
| Honorable    | Marty             | Orr              | City of Wilmington                                      | 1165 S. Water Street       |                          | Wilmington        | IL           | 60481      | 815-476-2175 x 227 |
| Honorable    | Gerald            | Curran           | Crete Township  | 1367 Wood Street           |                          | Crete             | IL           | 60417      | 708-672-8279       |
| Honorable    | Bruce             | Tammen           | Custer Township   | 37131 Essex Rd.            |                          | Wilmington        | IL           | 60481      | 815-458-2252       |
| Honorable    | Rosie             | Morrow           | Eagle Creek Township                                    | 8305 East 173rd Avenue     |                          | Hebron            | IN           | 46341      | 219-996-4572       |
| Honorable    | William           | Quigley          | Florence Township                                       | 16882 W. Arsenal Road      |                          | Wilmington        | IL           | 60481      | 815-476-3716       |
| Honorable    | Joseph            | Babich           | Forest Preserve District of Will County                 | 17540 W. Laraway Road      |                          | Joliet            | IL           | 60433      | 815-727-8700       |
| Mr.          | Ken               | Allers           | Kankakee River Valley Forest Preserve District          | 3301 Waldron Road          | PO Box 13                | Aroma Park        | IL           | 60910      | 815-935-5630       |
| Honorable    | Gary              | Mueller          | Green Garden Township                                   | 26840 S. 88th Ave.         | c/o Barbara Rizzo, Clerk | Monee             | IL           | 60449      | 815-277-9884       |
| Honorable    | Mitchell          | Lopez            | Hanover Township  | 9810 W. 136th Lane         |                          | Cedar Lake        | IN           | 46303      | 219-374-7443       |
| Ms.          | Susan             | Shea             | IDOT Division of Aeronautics                            | 1 Langhorne Bond Drive     | Capital Airport          | Springfield       | IL           | 62707-8415 |                    |
| Mr.          | Edward Donald     | McKay III        | Illinois State Geological Survey                        | 615 E. Peabody Drive       |                          | Champaign         | IL           | 61820-6964 | 217-333-0044       |
| Ms.          | Kristi            | LaFleur          | Illinois State Toll Highway Authority                   | 2700 Ogden Avenue          |                          | Downers Grove     | IL           | 60515      | 630-241-6800       |
| Mr.          | John C.           | Steinmetz        | Indiana State Geological Survey                         | 611 N. Walnut Grove Avenue |                          | Bloomington       | IN           | 47405      | 812-855-5067       |
| Honorable    | Timothy J.        | Vanderhyden      | Jackson Township  | 100 Mississippi Ave.       | P.O. Box 355             | Elwood            | IL           | 60421      | 815-423-5771       |
| Mr.          | Michael           | Lammey           | Kankakee Area Transportation Study                      | 189 E. Court Street        | Room 201                 | Kankakee          | IL           | 60901      | 815-937-2940       |
| Honorable    | Michael           | Bossert          | Kankakee County   | 189 E. Court Street        |                          | Kankakee          | IL           | 60901      | 815-937-3918       |
| Honorable    | Gerry             | Scheub           | Lake County, Indiana                                    | 2293 N. Main Street        | Building A, 3rd Floor    | Crown Point       | IN           | 46307      | 219-755-3200       |
| Honorable    | James F.          | Walsh            | Manhattan Township                                      | 24645 Eastern Ave.         |                          | Manhattan         | IL           | 60442      | 815-478-3123       |
| Honorable    | Alan              | Williams         | Manteno Township  | 1030 Boudreau Road         |                          | Manteno           | IL           | 60950      | 815-468-3112       |
| Mr.          | Alexander D.      | Clifford         | Metra   | 547 W. Jackson Blvd        |                          | Chicago           | IL           | 60661      | 312-322-6900       |
| Honorable    | Donna             | Dettbarn         | Monee Township  | 26121 Egyptian Trail       | P.O. Box 74              | Monee             | IL           | 60449      | 708-534-6020       |
| Mr.          | Gerald            | Hanas            | Northern Indiana Commuter Transportation District       | 33 East US Highway 12      |                          | Chesterton        | IN           | 46304      | 219-926-5744       |
| Mr.          | Timothy           | Brown            | Northwest Indiana Regional Bus Authority                | 6100 Southport Road        |                          | Portage           | IN           | 46368      | (219) 762-4767     |
| Mr.          | Bill              | Hanna            | Northwest Indiana Regional Development Authority        | 9800 Connecticut Drive     |                          | Crown Point       | IN           | 46307      | 219-644-3500       |
| Mr.          | Tyson             | Warner           | Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission       | 6100 Southport Road        |                          | Portage           | IN           | 46368      | 219-763-6060       |
| Mr.          | TJ                | Ross             | Pace Suburban Bus                                       | 550 W. Algonquin Road      |                          | Arlington Heights | IL           | 60005      | 847-364-7223       |
| Mr.          | David             | VanderZee        | Pace Suburban Bus                                       | 550 W. Algonquin Road      |                          | Arlington Heights | IL           | 60005      |                    |
| Honorable    | David             | Cann             | Peotone Township  | 8212 W. Kennedy Rd.        | PO BOX 163               | Peotone           | IL           | 60468      | 708-258-9192       |
| Honorable    | Lora              | Grant            | Reed Township   | 440 N. Division St.        | P.O. Box 77              | Braidwood         | IL           | 60408      | 815-458-6068       |
| Honorable    | David             | Murtaugh         | Regional Director Northwest Indiana - Senator Dan Coats | 11035 Broadway             | Suite A                  | Crown Point       | IN           | 46307      |                    |
| Honorable    | Peter             | Fahrenwald       | Regional Transportation Authority                       | 175 W. Jackson Blvd        | Suite 1550               | Chicago           | IL           | 60604      | 312-913-3200       |
| Honorable    | Richard           | Moran            | Rockville Township                                      | 11505 North 3500 West Road |                          | Manteno           | IL           | 60950      | 815-468-8869       |
| Honorable    | Joseph            | Shudick          | Ross Township   | 24 W. 73rd Ave             |                          | Merrillville      | IN           | 46410      | 219-769-2111       |
| Honorable    | Jean              | Shepherd         | St. John Township                                       | 1515 West Lincoln Highway  |                          | Schererville      | IN           | 46375      |                    |
| Honorable    | Larry             | Ohm              | Sumner Township   | 5277 E. 7000 N. Road       |                          | Manteno           | IL           | 60950      | 815-468-8056       |
| Honorable    | Randall           | Niemeyer         | Town of Cedar Lake                                      | 7408 Constitution Avenue   |                          | Cedar Lake        | IN           | 46303      | 219-374-7000       |
| Honorable    | Phillip           | Kuiper           | Town of Lowell  | 501 E. Main Street         |                          | Lowell            | IN           | 46357      | 219-696-7794       |
| Honorable    | Shawn             | Pettit           | Town of Merrillville                                    | 7820 Broadway Avenue       |                          | Merrillville      | IN           | 46410      | 219-769-5711       |
| Honorable    | Richard           | Ludlow           | Town of Schneider                                       | 23800 Parrish Street       | P.O. Box 207             | Schneider         | IN           | 46376      | 219-552-0661       |

|           |         |           |  |                                 |              |                 |    |       |              |
|-----------|---------|-----------|--|---------------------------------|--------------|-----------------|----|-------|--------------|
| Honorable | Mike    | Forbes    | Town of St. John                                   | 10955 West 93rd Avenue          |              | St. John        | IN | 46373 | 219-365-6465 |
| Honorable | James   | Hicks     | Town of Winfield                                   | 10645 Randolph Street           |              | Winfield        | IN | 46307 | 219-662-2665 |
| Honorable | Paul    | Lohmann   | Village of Beecher                                 | 724 Penfield Street             |              | Beecher         | IL | 60401 | 708-946-2261 |
| Honorable | James   | Homa      | Village of Braceville                              | 102 West Main Street            | P.O. Box 187 | Braceville      | IL | 60407 | 815-237-8655 |
| Honorable | Ed      | Pacchetti | Village of Carbon Hill                             | 695 North Holcomb Street        |              | Carbon Hill     | IL | 60416 | 815-634-8440 |
| Honorable | Joe     | Cook      | Village of Channahon                               | 24555 South Navajo Drive        |              | Channahon       | IL | 60410 | 815-467-6644 |
| Honorable | Neal    | Nelson    | Village of Coal City                               | 515 South Broadway              |              | Coal City       | IL | 60416 | 815-634-8608 |
| Honorable | Michael | Einhorn   | Village of Crete                                   | 524 West Exchange Street        |              | Crete           | IL | 60417 | 708-672-5431 |
| Honorable | Teresa  | Kernc     | Village of Diamond                                 | 1750 E. Division                |              | Diamond         | IL | 60416 | 815-634-8149 |
| Honorable | William | Offerman  | Village of Elwood                                  | 401 E. Mississippi Avenue       | P.O. Box 435 | Elwood          | IL | 60421 | 815-423-5011 |
| Honorable | R.A.    | Willis    | Village of Godley                                  | 150 South Kankakee Street       |              | Godley          | IL | 60407 | 815-458-2222 |
| Honorable | Fred    | Meyer     | Village of Grant Park                              | 106 West Taylor Street          |              | Grant Park      | IL | 60940 | 815-465-6531 |
| Honorable | William | Borgo     | Village of Manhattan                               | 245 South State Street          |              | Manhattan       | IL | 60442 | 815-418-2100 |
| Honorable | Timothy | Nugent    | Village of Manteno                                 | 98 E. 3rd Street                |              | Manteno         | IL | 60950 | 815-929-4800 |
| Honorable | Brian   | Mitchell  | Village of Matteson                                | 4900 Village Commons            |              | Matteson        | IL | 60443 | 708-283-4900 |
| Honorable | Daniel  | Tovo      | Village of Monee                                   | 5130 West Court Street          |              | Monee           | IL | 60449 | 708-534-6020 |
| Honorable | Richard | Duran     | Village of Peotone                                 | 208 E. Main Street              | P.O. Box 430 | Peotone         | IL | 60468 | 708-258-3279 |
| Honorable | Alan    | Darr, Jr. | Village of Symerton                                | 18347 W. South Street           |              | Wilmington      | IL | 60481 | 815-476-6266 |
| Honorable | Vivian  | Covington | Village of University Park                         | 4 Town Center                   |              | University Park | IL | 60484 | 708-534-4237 |
| Honorable | Robert  | Howard    | Washington Township                                | 30200 Town Center Rd.           |              | Beecher         | IL | 60401 | 708-946-2016 |
| Honorable | Daniel  | Jay       | Wesley Township                                    | 21399 W. Ballou Rd.             |              | Wilmington      | IL | 60481 | 815-476-7869 |
| Honorable | Harold  | Mussman   | West Creek Township                                | 11821 W. 181st Avenue           |              | Lowell          | IN | 46356 | 219-696-9432 |
| Honorable | Todd A. | Morse     | Wheatland Township                                 | 31 W .236 91st St.              |              | Naperville      | IL | 60564 | 630-851-3952 |
| Honorable | Herbert | Brooks    | Will County Board                                  | 302 N. Chicago Street           |              | Joliet          | IL | 60432 | 815-         |
| Honorable | Larry   | Walsh     | Will County Executive                              | 302 N. Chicago Street           |              | Joliet          | IL | 60432 | 815-774-7480 |
| Mr.       | Steven  | Quigley   | Will County Governmental League                    | 3180 Theodore Street, Suite 103 |              | Joliet          | IL | 60435 | 815-729-3535 |
| Mr.       | Neil    | Pellman   | Will/South Cook Soil & Water Conservation District | 1201 S. Gougar Road             |              | New Lenox       | IL | 60451 |              |
| Honorable | Brian   | Cann      | Will Township                                      | 29605 S. Ridgeland Ave.         |              | Peotone         | IL | 60468 | 708-258-0980 |
| Honorable | Jerry   | Stewart   | Wilmington Township                                | P.O. Box 397                    |              | Wilmington      | IL | 60481 | 815-476-9272 |
| Honorable | Gynith  | Borden    | Wilton Township                                    | 28443 S. Wallingford Road       |              | Manhattan       | IL | 60442 | 815-478-3589 |
| Honorable | Rollie  | Brauer    | Winfield Township                                  | 10645 Randolph Street           |              | Winfield        | IN | 46307 | 219-662-2665 |
| Honorable | Joseph  | Fetcho    | Yellowhead Township                                | 113 E. Curtis Street            | PO Box 567   | Grant Park      | IL | 60940 | 815-465-6308 |



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MAR 12 2013

DISTRICT #1

201 W. Center Court  
Schaumburg, Illinois 60196

100 N. Senate Avenue, #N642  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

[www.illianacorridor.org](http://www.illianacorridor.org)

## Participating Agency Response

Accept: Yes

Do **Not** Accept: \_\_\_\_\_

Reason(s) for not accepting:

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Signature: 

Title: Chairman

Agency: Kankakee County Board

Date: March 19, 2013



Illinois Department  
of Transportation



INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Q-045



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Indianapolis, Indiana 46204  
[www.illianacorridor.org](http://www.illianacorridor.org)

## Participating Agency Response

Accept: The Village of Peotone accepts the invitation.

Do **Not** Accept: \_\_\_\_\_

Reason(s) for not accepting:

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Signature:   
Richard P. Duran

Title: Village President

Agency: Village of Peotone

Date: March 19, 2013

## Participating Agency Response

Accept: Yes

Do **Not** Accept: \_\_\_\_\_

Reason(s) for not accepting:

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Signature: 

Title: Transportation Planner

Agency: Kankakee Area Transportation Study

Date: March 18, 2013



## Participating Agency Response

Accept: ✓ Price meets

Do **Not** Accept: \_\_\_\_\_

Reason(s) for not accepting:

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Signature: Mahesh Selb

Title: Deputy Executive Director, Strategic Services

Agency: Pace Suburban Bus

Date: 3/18/13



MAR 21 2013

DISTRICT #1

## Participating Agency Response

Accept: Village of Beecher, Illinois

Do **Not** Accept: \_\_\_\_\_

Reason(s) for not accepting:

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Signature: 

Title: Robert O. Barber, Village Administrator

Agency: Village of Beecher

Date: 3/18/13



## Participating Agency Response

Accept: \_\_\_\_\_

Do **Not** Accept: ☒ \_\_\_\_\_

Reason(s) for not accepting:

Thank you for this opportunity  
however I feel since we have  
no property located within the  
2,000-foot-wide 47-mile-long east-  
west corridor, it is best to include  
communities who do.

We continue to support the Illiana  
Corridor project and B3.

Signature:  \_\_\_\_\_

Title: Mayor

Agency: Village of Diamond

Date: 03-25-13



## Participating Agency Response

Accept: VILLAGE OF MANTENO X

Do **Not** Accept: \_\_\_\_\_

Reason(s) for not accepting:

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Signature: Timothy O. Nugent

Title: Village President

Agency: Village of Manteno

Date: 3-20-2013

*Village of Manteno*

98 EAST THIRD STREET  
MANTENO, ILLINOIS 60950  
PHONE (815) 929-4800  
DIRECT LINE (815) 929-4841  
FAX (815) 468-8240  
CELL (815) 482-1537

**TIMOTHY O. NUGENT**  
Village President  
[timnugent@aol.com](mailto:timnugent@aol.com)

WEST CREEK TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE  
HAROLD MUSSMAN, JR. TRUSTEE  
11821 WEST 185<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE – PO BOX 84  
LOWELL, INDIANA 46356  
219-696-9432

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APR 8 2013  
DISTRICT #1

March 26, 2013

Katie Kukielka, PE  
IDOT PMC Project Manager  
201 West Center Court  
Schaumburg, IL 60196

Dear Ms. Kukielka,

I am responding to your letter of March 11, 2013 regarding the Illiana Corridor Tier Two Environmental Impact Statement: **Participating Agency Request.**

You indicated in your letter to our office that attached to your letter was a form that would allow us to check a response to either accept or decline the offer to become a Participating Agency; however you failed to attach the form.

This letter is written to you with a copy also going to Jim Pinkerton as well as James A Earl all at INDOT, **notifying you that we do wish to be a Participating Agency.** We will look forward to receiving any and all information that pertains to the study or anything to do with Tier 2 and the Illiana corridor.

If it is necessary for us to complete the form, please send us one as soon as possible so we can complete the necessary paper work and will be in compliance with your rules.

Thank you.

Yours truly,



Harold Mussman, Jr.  
Trustee

Cc: Jim Pinkerton, INDOT  
Cc: James A Earl II, INDOT

APR 01 2013

DISTRICT #1

201 W. Center Court  
Schaumburg, Illinois 60196

100 N. Senate Avenue, #N642  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

[www.illianacorridor.org](http://www.illianacorridor.org)

## Participating Agency Response

### **WILL TOWNSHIP**

BRIAN CANN, SPVR  
30317 SO. WILL CENTER RD.  
PEOTONE, ILLINOIS 60468

Accept: \_\_\_\_\_

Do **Not** Accept: \_\_\_\_\_

Reason(s) for not accepting:

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Signature: Brian Cann

Title: Supervisor

Agency: WILL TOWNSHIP  
BRIAN CANN, SPVR  
30317 SO. WILL CENTER RD.  
PEOTONE, ILLINOIS 60468

Date: 3-26-13



APR 6 2013

DISTRICT #1

## Participating Agency Response

Accept: TOWN OF CEDAR LAKE

Do **Not** Accept: \_\_\_\_\_

Reason(s) for not accepting:

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Signature: 

Title: TOWN MANAGER

Agency: TOWN OF CEDAR LAKE

Date: 03/27/2013



## Participating Agency Response



Accept: \_\_\_\_\_

Do **Not** Accept: \_\_\_\_\_

Reason(s) for not accepting:

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Signature: Alice J Dake

Title: Trustee

Agency: Cedar Creek Township Trustee

Date: 3-15-13

## Participating Agency Response

Accept: ☒ \_\_\_\_\_

Do **Not** Accept: \_\_\_\_\_

Reason(s) for not accepting:

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Signature: Frank Becker

Title: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Agency: CHICAGO METROPOLITAN AGENCY FOR PLANNING

Date: 3.21.13

## Participating Agency Response

Accept: ✓ Rosemarie MORROW

Do **Not** Accept: \_\_\_\_\_

Reason(s) for not accepting:

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Signature: Rosemarie Morrow

Title: TRUSTEE

Agency: EAGLE CREEK TOWNSHIP

Date: 3-20-13



## Participating Agency Response

Accept: MANTENO TWP

Do **Not** Accept: \_\_\_\_\_

Reason(s) for not accepting:

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Signature: Al R Williams

Title: SUPERVISOR

Agency: MANTENO TOWNSHIP

Date: 3/20/2013

## Participating Agency Response

Accept: ✓

Do **Not** Accept: \_\_\_\_\_

Reason(s) for not accepting:

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Signature: Hebert Brooks

Title: SPEAKER OF THE BOARD

Agency: Will County Board

Date: 3-19-13





201 W. Center Court  
Schaumburg, Illinois 60196

100 N. Senate Avenue, #N642  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

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## Participating Agency Response

Accept: ✓ MAX BOSSO, P.E.

Do Not Accept: \_\_\_\_\_

Reason(s) for not accepting:

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Signature: 

Title: DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING & P.W.

Date: 04-02-13



DISTRICT #1

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APR 05 2013

DISTRICT #1

## Participating Agency Response

201 W. Center Court  
Schaumburg, Illinois 60196

100 N. Senate Avenue, #N642  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

[www.illianacorridor.org](http://www.illianacorridor.org)

Accept: 

Do **Not** Accept:

Reason(s) for not accepting:

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Signature:



Title:



Agency:



Date:



Illinois Department  
of Transportation



INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Q-062

APR 08 2013

DISTRICT #1

## Participating Agency Response

Accept: X Village of Grant Park

Do **Not** Accept: \_\_\_\_\_

Reason(s) for not accepting:

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Signature: 

Title: Village President

Agency: Village of Grant Park

Date: 04-01-13

## Participating Agency Response

Accept: ✓

Do **Not** Accept: \_\_\_\_\_

Reason(s) for not accepting:

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Signature: Mark A. Borg

Title: Mayor

Agency: Village of Manhattan

Date: 4-2-13



## Participating Agency Response

Accept: X - VILLAGE OF COAL CITY

Do **Not** Accept: \_\_\_\_\_

Reason(s) for not accepting:

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Signature: 

Title: VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR

Agency: VILLAGE OF COAL CITY

Date: 4/9/2013



APR 11 2013

DISTRICT #1

## Participating Agency Response

Accept: ✓

Do **Not** Accept: \_\_\_\_\_

Reason(s) for not accepting:

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Signature: Gymith Borden

Title: Wilton Township Supervisor

Agency: Wilton Township

Date: 4/7/13

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APR 15 2013

DISTRICT #1

April 10, 2013

Ms. Katie Kukielka, P.E.  
IDOT PMC Project Manager  
201 West Center Court  
Schaumburg, IL 60196

Dear Ms. Kukielka:

Metra has received the correspondence dated March 11, 2013 regarding initiation of the Tier Two Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Illiana Corridor, and is pleased to accept the invitation to become a participating agency. David Kralik will be Metra's primary contact for information related to this study. Please feel free to contact him by phone (312-322-8035) or email ([dkralik@metrarr.com](mailto:dkralik@metrarr.com)) with information or questions. Alternatively, you may contact Kristen Andersen by phone (312-322-8033) or email ([kandersen@metrarr.com](mailto:kandersen@metrarr.com)). Please send all project information and documents to both individuals.

Metra also appreciates the opportunity to comment on the scoping of the Tier Two Environmental Impact Statement. We request that the Tier Two EIS analysis consider access to current and proposed future Metra stations, so that access from the highway network is as direct as possible. For example, connections to Metra's system should be considered in the location and design of Illiana interchanges.

We look forward to continued participation in the Illiana Corridor planning process.

Sincerely,



Lynnette H. Ciavarella  
Sr. Division Director, Strategic Capital Planning

APR 18 2013  
DISTRICT #1

## Participating Agency Response

Accept: ✓

Do **Not** Accept: \_\_\_\_\_

Reason(s) for not accepting:

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Signature: Susan B. Shee

Title: Director

Agency: Division of Aeronautics - IDOT

Date: March 18, 2013



APR 18 2011

DISTRICT #1

## Participating Agency Response

✓ Accept: \_\_\_\_\_

Do **Not** Accept: \_\_\_\_\_

Reason(s) for not accepting:

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Signature:  \_\_\_\_\_

Title: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Agency: ILLINOIS TOLLWAY

Date: 3-22-13





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APR 18 2013

DISTRICT #1

2581KK

201 W. Center Court  
Schaumburg, Illinois 60196

100 N. Senate Avenue, #N642  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

[www.illianacorridor.org](http://www.illianacorridor.org)

## Participating Agency Response

Accept: VILLAGE OF CRETE, IL

Do **Not** Accept: \_\_\_\_\_

Reason(s) for not accepting:

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Signature:  MICHAEL S. EINHORN

Title: VILLAGE PRESIDENT

Agency: VILLAGE OF CRETE

Date: 04/10/2013

JUN 19 2013  
DISTRICT #1

## Participating Agency Response

Accept: yes

Do **Not** Accept: \_\_\_\_\_

Reason(s) for not accepting:

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Signature: Tony Graff

Title: City Administrator

Agency: City of Wellesburg

Date: 6/14/3





## Tier Two Agency Scoping Meeting

February 22, 2013



### Agenda

- Introductions
- Purpose of Meeting
- Project Overview
- Environmental Resource Methodology for Tier Two
- Context Sensitive Solutions
- What's Next for You





*Agency Scoping Meeting*

## **Introductions**



*Agency Scoping Meeting*

## **Purpose of Meeting**



## Purpose of Meeting



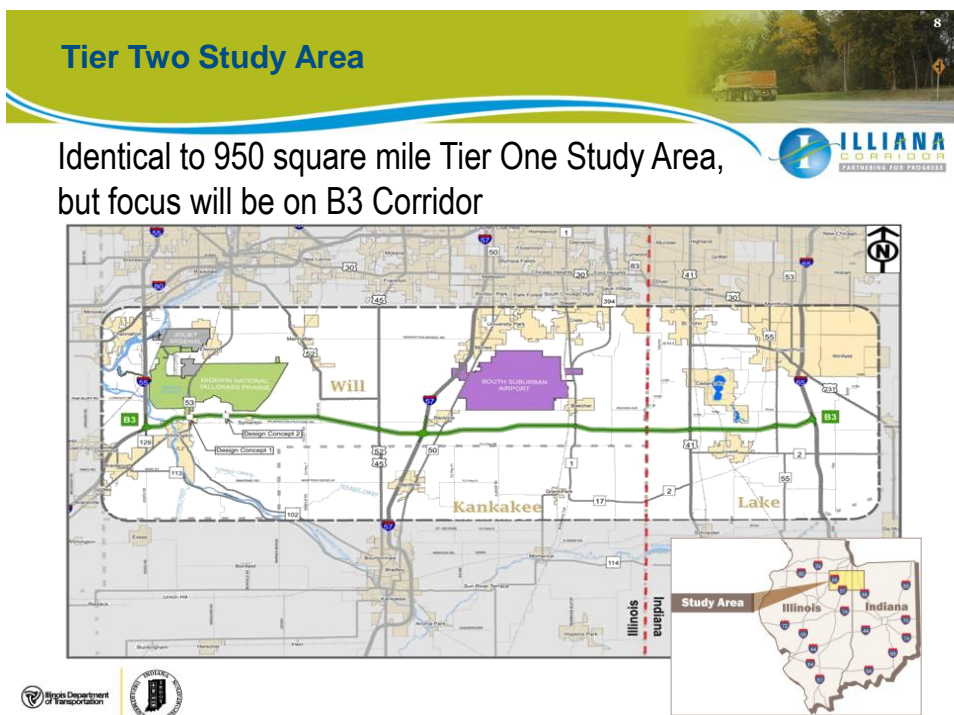
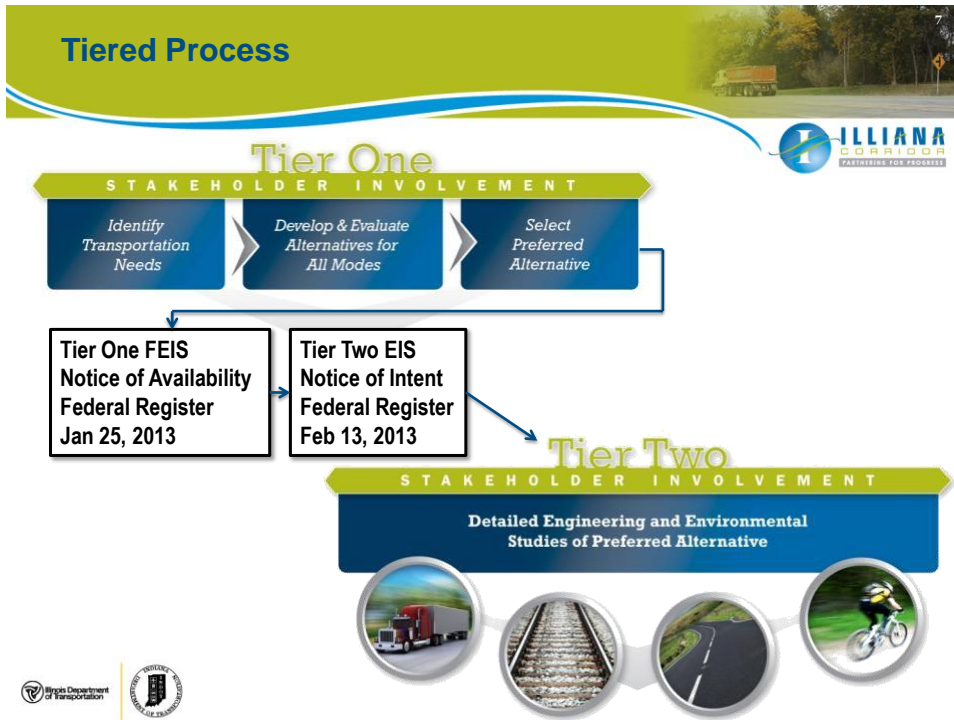
- Provide overview of the project, the process, and schedule
- Get your input on issues or concerns
- Explain the methodology for Tier Two studies
- Identify opportunities for Tier Two stakeholder involvement



*Agency Scoping Meeting*

## Project Overview







*Agency Scoping Meeting*

## Environmental Resource Methodology for Tier Two



### Tier Two Methodology

- Tier One emphasized the use of GIS and hard-copy data of existing databases and information
- Tier Two will build upon existing Tier One information with additional field studies and information gathering
- Much of the field work is completed, with additional activities to extend into end of Spring 2013



## Tier Two Methodology Scoping Document pg 4-7



- Socioeconomic
- Agricultural
- Cultural Resources
- Air Quality
- Noise
- Energy
- Natural Resources
- Water Resources
- Groundwater Resources
- Floodplains
- Wetlands
- Special/Hazardous Waste
- Section 4(f)
- Special Lands
- Mineral Resources
- Visual Resources
- Indirect and Cumulative



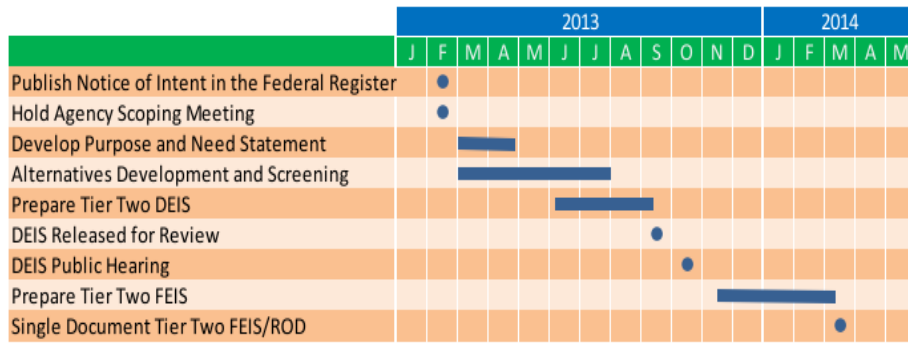
## Tier Two Process



- Continuation of Tiered NEPA process
- Context Sensitive Solutions
- Field study and GIS based impact assessment
- Financing strategies for alternatives, including toll financing/public-private partnership is a consideration.
- **Tier Two Outcome:** Preferred Alternative identifying environmental footprint with plan for financing and/or phased implementation



## Tier 2 Schedule



*Agency Scoping Meeting*

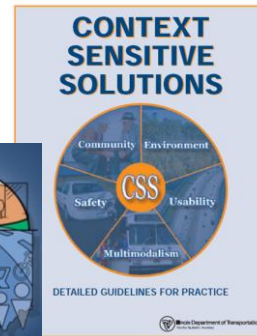
## Context Sensitive Solutions



## Context Sensitive Solutions



- Study will continue to use a hybrid of both states' CSS process guided by these resources:
  - IDOT CSS Detailed Guidelines for Practice
  - INDOT CSS Implementation Plan



## Project Team



### PROJECT SPONSORS

IDOT • INDOT • FHWA

### CORRIDOR PLANNING GROUP (CPG)

Counties and Municipalities  
•  
Metropolitan Planning Organizations

### TECHNICAL TASK FORCE

Agencies  
(i.e. transportation, resource etc.)  
•  
Communities, Counties, other units of Government  
•  
Interested Groups  
•  
Organizations

Similar to  
Tier One



## What is the process and timeline?



## Potential Alternatives

- No-Action Alternative
- New Facility in Corridor B3
  - Access Controlled
  - Toll and non tolled options



## Potential Alternatives

- Alternatives are anticipated to be located within the 2000 foot corridor
- Exceptions
  - System Interchange areas (ex. I-55)
  - Flexibility to consider “minor excursions” of the Illiana to accommodate newly discovered impacts or to address CSS issues in a way that does not materially increase overall impacts
  - Local system improvements to accommodate access changes



***Exceptions will be coordinated with NEPA/404 agencies***

## Tier Two Purpose and Need

*Continuation of Tier One Purpose and Need, with minor changes*

Major Purpose and Need points remain the same:

- Improve Regional Mobility
- Alleviate Local System Congestion and Improve Local System Mobility
- Provide for Efficient Movement of Freight



## Tier Two Purpose and Need



- Updated to indicate Corridor B3 as the selected alternative of the Tier One Single Document FEIS/ROD
- Updated to indicate the project is funded through the Tier Two EIS, and that further coordination will be needed with CMAP and NIRPC for inclusion in their long-range regional plans
- Added “in a manner consistent with the commitments in the Tier One Record of Decision” to the Purpose statement



## Potential Alternatives



- In Tier One, emphasis was on selecting the best 2,000 foot width corridor among a range of alternatives
- In Tier Two, emphasis will be on selecting the best alignment and approximate 400 foot width footprint, and considering alternative design options
- Opportunities along the corridor

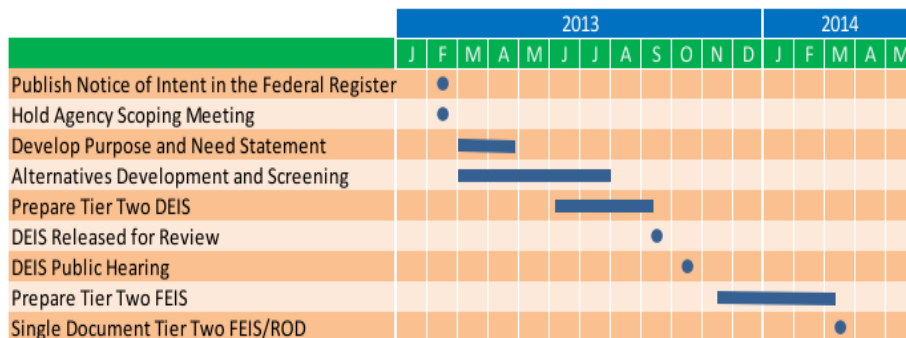


## Potential Key Environmental Issues

- Agriculture
- Wetlands
- River and stream crossings
- Threatened & Endangered Species
- Proximity to Midewin
- Indirect /cumulative impacts
- Protected lands
- Range of other community, natural resource, and cultural resource issues



## Schedule



## Stakeholder Outreach



- Five landowner meetings with over 500 registered attendees



## Corridor Planning Group/Technical Task Force

- Elected officials from each community, county, and Metropolitan Planning Organizations
- Role:
  - Assist in environmental and engineering studies
  - Reach consensus at key project decision milestones
  - 5 scheduled meetings – March, April, May, August, December 2013
  - Technical Task Force assists CPG with community and technical knowledge and expertise



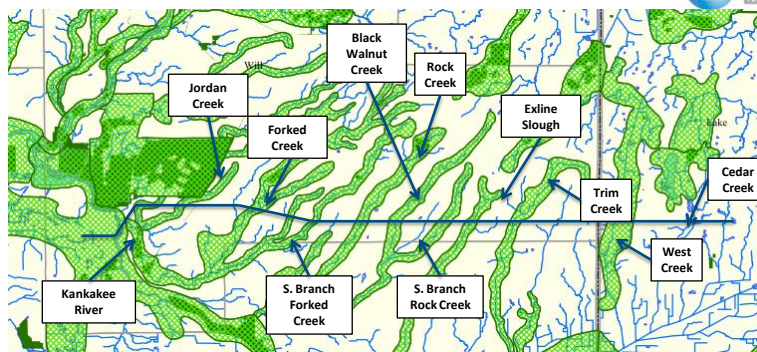
## Stakeholder Outreach



# Corridor Sustainability and Context Design – Examples of Potential Design Approaches



## Potential Key Environmental Issues



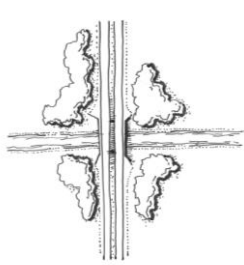
- Green Infrastructure is a part of regional planning as well as environmental regulation and stewardship
- CMAP Draft “Green Infrastructure” plan based on Chicago Wilderness initiative



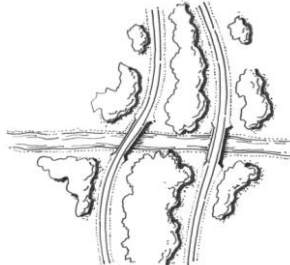
## Illiana Corridor Context Design Concepts



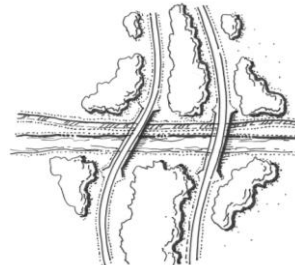
- **Key Design Components Continued**
  - **Introduce Intentional Alignment Meanders and Lane Pair Separations**



- Standard Alignment at Stream Crossing



- Alignment Meander and Lane Pair Separation at Stream Crossing



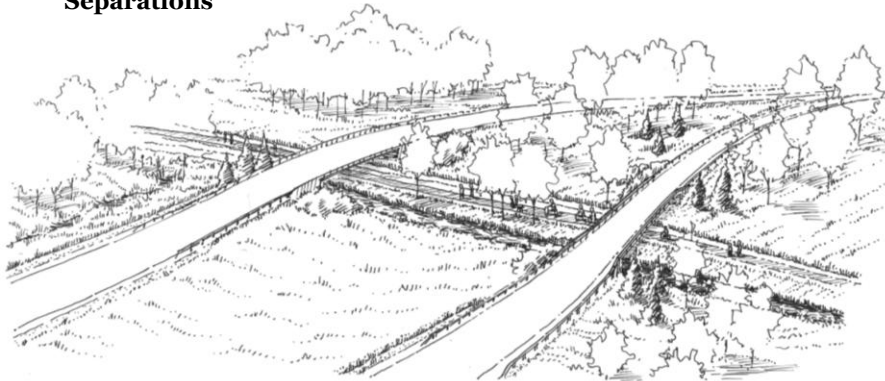
- Alignment Meander and Lane Pair Separation at Stream Crossing and Bicycle/Ped/Wildlife Underpass



## Illiana Corridor Context Design Concepts



- **Key Design Components Continued**
  - **Introduce Intentional Alignment Meanders and Lane Pair Separations**



## Illiana Corridor Context Design Concepts

### • Key Design Components Continued

#### • Naturalized/Native Planting

- Restore diverse plant ecosystem; native grasses, wildflowers, shrubs, and trees
- Create wildlife corridors with vegetative cover that provides food source and habitat
- Stabilize graded slopes, drainageways, and ponds
- Screen objectionable views and frame and direct attention to positive views
- Soften engineered slopes which cannot meet desired grading parameters
- Vary establishment techniques; whips, cuttings, seeding and nut/seed beds



## Corridor Land Use Planning

- Additional CPG/TTF activities have been scoped for communities directly affected by Corridor B3
- Reference Appendix J – “Corridor Land Use Options” from Tier One FEIS
- Facilitation of Land Use planning meetings
- Corridor-wide solutions sought; preservation options to allow consideration of future transportation and non-transportation uses
- 3 corridor-wide land use planning meetings - dates TBD



## Potential Alternatives



# Roll Map and WebEx Exercise



*Agency Scoping Meeting*

## What's Next for You



## Continuation of Bi-State Agency Coordination Program



- Informal contacts during data gathering
- NEPA/Section 404 Concurrence Points:
  - Statement of purpose and need
  - Alternatives for detailed study
  - Preferred Alternative
- Interagency field trip during alternatives screening



## Needed from You



- Scoping letter addressing your agency's perspective on:
  - Environmental issues
  - Project alternatives
  - Bi-state agency coordination
- Response to letter requesting cooperating or participating agency involvement
- **Provide both by March 15, 2013**
- Also: review of draft Tier Two Purpose and Need – NEPA/404 concurrence request meeting TBA





**Questions?**



## MEETING SIGN-IN SHEET

Date: February 27, 2013

Location: FHWA - Indianapolis Office

Purpose: Tier Two Agency Signing Meeting

| Name              | Representing          | Email Address          |
|-------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 1. John Carr      | Ind. DNR / SHPO staff | jcarr@dnr.in.gov       |
| 2. Jason Randolph | IDEM 401              | jrandol@idem.in.gov    |
| 3. Joyce Newland  | FHWA - INDIANA        | joyce.newland@dot.gov  |
| 4. Jim Earl       | INDOT                 | jearl@indot.in.gov     |
| 5. Rick Rampone   | Parsons Brinckerhoff  | rampone.ra@pbworld.com |
| 6.                |                       |                        |
| 7. Remote         |                       |                        |
| 8. Laura Hilden   | INDOT                 |                        |
| 9. Ken McMullen   | INDOT                 |                        |
| 10.               |                       |                        |
| 11.               |                       |                        |
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| 25.               |                       |                        |



## INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

*We Protect Hoosiers and Our Environment.*

*Michael R. Pence*  
Governor

*Thomas W. Easterly*  
Commissioner

100 North Senate Avenue  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204  
(317) 232-8603  
Toll Free (800) 451-6027  
[www.idem.IN.gov](http://www.idem.IN.gov)

March 12, 2013

### VIA CERTIFIED MAIL HAND DELIVERY

Mr. James Earl  
Indiana Department of Transportation  
100 N Senate Avenue, Room N642  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dear Mr. Earl:

Re: Tier 2 Water Resource Assessments  
Project: Illiana Corridor  
County: Lake

Representatives of the Office of Water Quality participated in the February 22, 2013, Illiana Corridor Tier 2 kick off meeting. As part of that meeting, timelines were presented for the Tier 2 process which is scheduled for completion in February/March 2014. Due to the accelerated nature of this process, IDEM is providing agency expectations for the analysis of water resources within the 2,000 foot wide corridor and providing guidance on permitting issues associated with this project.

### Wetland Evaluation

1. All wetlands, including open water and farmed wetlands as well as those wetlands which may be isolated, shall be delineated in accordance with the Army Corps of Engineers 1987 Wetland Delineation Manual and the applicable Regional Supplement. Any wetland that extends beyond the proposed study corridor should be delineated to show the entire boundary of the wetland.
2. Isolated wetlands identified within the corridor should be evaluated in accordance with the definitions found in Indiana Code 13-11-2-25.8 with a justification for the classification of the isolated wetlands. The identification and classification of isolated wetlands will be unnecessary if you submit a Pre-Jurisdictional Determination which assumes all wetlands within the corridor and within the jurisdiction of the Army Corps of Engineers.
3. Provide a description for each wetland with a summary opinion on the quality of the wetland and the basis for that opinion. The description of the wetland should include, species diversity, position of the wetland within the

landscape, hydrologic function of the wetland, habitat functions provide by the wetland, and estimate percent cover of invasive or nonnative species. A Floristic Quality Assessments should capture most of this information.

4. Once the wetland delineation report is complete, it should be submitted to the Army Corps of Engineers (COE)-Chicago District and IDEM concurrently. Multi agency field visits should be scheduled with the COE, IDEM, Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to verify the wetland delineation and view the quality of the wetlands. IDEM prefers an early growing season site visit.

Compensatory mitigation for unavoidable impacts to jurisdictional wetlands should be provided in accordance with the following ratios: Open Water 1:1, Farmed Wetland 1:1, Emergent Wetlands 2:1, Scrub/Shrub Wetlands 3:1, and Forested Wetlands 4:1. If rare and ecologically important wetland types are discovered then all impacts to those resources must be avoided since compensatory mitigation cannot offset those impacts. Compensatory mitigation sites should be located within the same 8-digit watershed and should be directed towards sites that will improve water quality to any state impaired waterbody. Please refer to the 303d list of impaired waters for the State of Indiana. If section 319 watershed studies have been conducted within the watersheds please contact the local sponsor of the study to identify areas that will most benefit water quality.

Once you have selected your preferred alignment, finalized wetland impacts, and selected mitigation sites, you should coordinate with COE and IDEM before final mitigation site selection and design. The Lake Station Mitigation Bank cannot be utilized to mitigate for impacts which result from this project due to its location outside the 8-digit watershed. The use of the Kankakee Sands Mitigation Bank **may be** a viable option for portions of your mitigation but only after agency consultation. To ensure a no net loss, the agency will require a minimum restoration of 1:1 with the remaining ratios possibly mitigated at the bank. Once again this is only after you have exhausted all attempts at locating suitable mitigation sites within the watershed or COE-Chicago District Boundaries and consulted with the agencies.

Compensatory mitigation for unavoidable isolated wetland impacts shall be provided in accordance with the ratios outlined in Indiana Code(IC) 13-18-22-6. Please note, IC 13-18-22-6 requires the replacement wetland to be of a specified class (dependant on the class of wetlands the activity occurred in), and that Class I, Class II, and Class III wetlands are defined as isolated. This means you will need to replace isolated wetlands with isolated mitigation wetlands and subsequently separate mitigation sites for isolated wetlands and jurisdictional wetlands are needed. Mitigation must be provided within the same 8-digit watershed or county. Once you have selected your preferred alignment, finalized wetland impacts, and selected mitigation sites you should coordinate with IDEM before final mitigation site selection and design.

### **Stream Evaluation**

This is a new terrain project and it will have a potential to be detrimental to water quality, therefore, you must complete the following assessments to ensure there will be no degradation of water quality, detrimental impacts to plant and animal life, and that existing beneficial uses will be maintained:

#### **1. Stream Assessments**

- a. Stream habitat assessments using QHEI and HHEI.
- b. Fish surveys to assess species diversity to determine if any State or Federally listed rare, threatened, or endangered species are present.
- c. Mussel surveys to assess species diversity to determine if any State or Federally listed rare, threatened, or endangered species are present.
- d. Macroinvertebrate surveys to help determine overall water quality and level of stream habitat.

#### **2. Riparian Corridor Assessment**

- a. Mean width of riparian corridor in the proposed alternatives.
- b. Density of trees within the riparian corridor.
- c. Tree species inventory.
- d. Wetlands, waterways, or other drainage features within the riparian corridor.
- e. Identification of suitable Indiana Bat habitat within the riparian corridor. Additionally, it should be noted whether or not the area has been surveyed for the Indiana bat.

The data from the surveys will be used to evaluate potential impacts to water quality and aquatic habitat. This information will also be used as success criteria for any stream and riparian corridor mitigation. These assessment methods should be conducted in accordance with assessment methods used by the IDEM Assessment Branch, IDNR, and USFWS.

Additionally, IDEM recommends you design a protocol to evaluate the stability of the stream banks upstream and downstream from any proposed crossing. The increased runoff associated with impervious surface and stormwater runoff will increase velocities within the stream and contribute to additional bank erosion. At a minimum, you should assess 500 linear feet upstream and downstream from any bridge or culvert crossing. If an on-and-off ramp system is located within close proximity to a stream, the length of upstream and downstream assessment should be extended to 1,000 linear feet. During this assessment you should identify problem areas and recommend appropriate measures to stabilize stream banks that will be impacted by increased runoff. If problem areas are identified during the assessment then stabilization methods using bioengineering should be given priority over other techniques. The use of

bioengineering stabilization measures can count towards the compensatory mitigation requirements.

Compensatory mitigation for stream impacts shall be provided at a 1:1 ratio as measured by linear feet. Instream habitat features such as riffle-pool and meander complexes as well as bioengineered bank stabilization and root wads should be included as part of the stream mitigation. The Indiana Department of Transportation's I-70/Six Points Road stream mitigation is the standard for this project. Riparian corridor mitigation shall be provided to compensate for loss and functions of riparian corridors. All riparian corridor mitigation should be a minimum of 50 feet wide on each side of the stream. This project will be viewed cumulatively and mitigation will be calculated by adding up the total loss of wetlands, streams, and riparian corridor from the project. All stream mitigation should be located within the same 8-digit watershed and should be directed towards sites that will improve water quality to any state impaired waterbody. Again, please refer to the 303d list of impaired waters for the State of Indiana. If section 319 watershed studies have been conducted within the watersheds please contact the local sponsor of the study to identify areas that will most benefit water quality.

Before mitigation is proposed, the Section 401 Water Quality Certification review process requires avoidance and minimization. The completion of the Tier 2 process does not meet the requirements of avoidance and minimization. When choosing the preferred alternative route for this project, you should avoid converting ephemeral, intermittent and perennial streams into roadside ditches. To avoid this circumstance, all streams should be crossed in perpendicular manner. If you propose to convert streams into roadside ditches you need to provide a sufficient justification. Referencing Department of Transportation design standards is not a sufficient justification for these impacts! Where it is necessary to convert streams to road side ditches, the back slope of the roadside ditch should be planted with native trees, shrubs, and herbaceous species. All culverts are to be embedded into the stream channel and installed in a manner that will not cause erosion at the outlet or direct stream flow against the stream bank. You must ensure all riprap discharged below the ordinary high water mark is embedded and the top of the riprap is no higher than the stream bed and bank elevations. Do not use double culverts for crossings and avoid crossing streams on meanders.

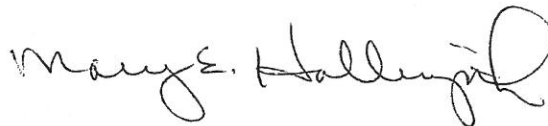
For wetlands, you must select and design the preferred alternative to avoid and minimize wetland impacts to the greatest extent practical. There are several locations where the corridor must cross several extensive wetland systems. The alternative should be designed to cross the narrowest portion of a wetland and where possible the lowest quality portion of the wetland. The alternative should be designed to avoid cutting of the contributing watershed to a wetland or increasing surface flow into the wetland. Stormwater should be treated by detention systems located in uplands before discharges into wetlands. Road side ditches should not be located within wetlands. If hydrologically connected wetlands are located on both sides of the road then equalization pipes must be installed to maintain the connectivity. If culvert pipes or

equalization pipes are installed in a wetland then they should be sized large enough that they will not channelize flow through the wetland (boxes not pipes)

In regards to context design concepts, IDEM prefers you select the least environmentally damaging design for interchanges and bridge crossings. This typically means the narrowest design footprint for interchanges that still meets the safety and transportation requirements. During the February 22, 2013, meeting slides were presented on proposed corridor crossings on streams. IDEM prefers the standard alignment stream crossing design because it has the narrowest footprint. The proposed meander alignment typically results in the bridge piers being installed at an angle which will direct flow in a manner that will scour out the channel and banks.

If you have any questions about this letter, please contact Jason Randolph, Project Manager, of my staff at 317-233-0467, or you may contact the Office of Water Quality through the IDEM Environmental Helpline (1-800-451-6027).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mary E. Hollingsworth". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the last name being particularly prominent.

Mary E. Hollingsworth, Branch Chief  
Surface Water, Operations & Enforcement Branch  
Office of Water Quality

cc: Matt Fuller, FHWA-Illinois  
Joyce Newland, FHWA-Indiana  
Paul Leffler, USACE-Chicago  
Liz McCloskey, USFWS  
Liz Pelloso, USEPA-Region 5  
Matt Buffington, Biologist, IDNR  
Rick Rampone, Parsons Brinckerhoff



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF:

**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
**CHICAGO DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS**  
**111 NORTH CANAL STREET**  
**CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60606-7206**

March 14, 2013

Technical Services Division  
Regulatory Branch  
LRC-2011-00344

SUBJECT: Scoping Comments for the Tier II Environmental Impact Statement Study of the Illiana Corridor in Will County, Illinois and Lake County, Indiana

Norman Stoner  
Federal Highway Administration  
3250 Executive Park Drive  
Springfield, Illinois 62703

Dear Mr. Stoner:

This letter is in response to your request that the U.S Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) provide scoping comments for the Illiana Tier II EIS study. Various Federal and state agencies are providing a concurrent review of the project under the terms and conditions as set forth in the "Statewide Implementation Agreement National Environmental Policy Act And Clean Water Act Section 404 Concurrent NEPA/404 Processes For Transportation Projects in Illinois".

Following attendance at the February 22, 2013 scoping meeting and the review of the "Draft Scoping Document – Tier Two – Illiana Corridor Study" dated February, 2013, the Corps provides the following scoping comments:

1. The interchange options with Illinois Route 53 near Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie is a primary issue to be discussed during Tier II. The primary reason for considering multiple interchange options at IL-53 appeared to be with regard to the potential effects on the historic Route 66 at this location. The Corps agrees that this is a significant consideration; however, the implications of each interchange option as to how they will impact Midewin, and the resources contained therein, are also of importance.

The Tier I FES provided some initial determinations on potential impacts associated with this interchange. For example, traffic on IL-53 through Midewin is estimated to be 18% lower under the no interchange option. The potential noise effects from various IL-53 traffic scenarios indicate that bird presence and breeding may be reduced for 700 meters from the roadway. Additional details regarding potential effects on bird presence and breeding among alternatives should be provided in Tier II to fully assess the impacts of each alternative. Also, the potential for expansion of IL-53 as a result of various interchange options should be explored. Expansion of IL-53 could result in additional direct and indirect impacts to Midewin and should be considered as part of the Tier II study. This information should be available when the range of alternatives are being

considered.

The FES states that “The indirect and cumulative impacts analysis will be expanded in the Tier Two EIS to include the potential impacts of lighting, traffic and noise on wildlife in the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie. The Tier One EISs for the SSA, Elgin-O’Hare West Bypass project, and the Chicago-St. Louis High Speed Rail project concluded that wildlife habitat will be disrupted during construction of these projects and that existing wildlife is expected to reestablish viable populations in potential mitigation areas and undeveloped areas.” Coordination with the resource agencies and Midewin early in the Tier II process is very important to ensure that they are in concurrence with the methodologies to assess these potential impacts. Although previous studies have concluded that wildlife will reestablish in other areas, this study must independently determine the scale of impacts and the potential mitigation options.

2. The Cedar Lake area is known to contain high quality natural resources and will be an area of interest for the Tier II studies. In addition to consideration of natural resources, adequate coordination with resource agencies regarding survey methods for and impacts to Threatened & Endangered species is very important.
3. As stated in the Tier I FES, mitigation for permanent fill placed in jurisdictional waters of the U.S. will follow the Compensatory Mitigation Rule requirements at 33 CFR Part 332. In keeping with the Rule, this study should identify the values and functions being lost as a result of this project. Then identify and prioritize mitigation options that replace these values and functions to the greatest extent possible.
4. Section 2.2 (Potential Tier Two Activities) should provide additional details of decisions to be made in Tier II, such as interchange types and locations, connections and integration with the local road network, and structure types at stream crossings. A concept for the range of alternatives to be considered should be outlined in the Scoping Document.
5. Field meetings to review the wetland delineations and stream assessments must occur prior to concurrence on the alternatives to be carried forward. Field verification of wetland and water resources is vital in order to fully assess the range and adequacy of alternatives being considered.
6. The Tier II study should follow the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) among the Federal Highway Administration, Illinois State Historic Preservation Officer, Illinois Department of Transportation and Federally Recognized Tribes Interested in Illinois Lands Regarding Tribal Consultation requirements for the Illinois Federal Transportation, ratified August 31, 2011. Currently, no tribes with interests in Will County have signed the MOU. Signing of the MOU by the tribes would give validity to the process. FHWA should continue to make efforts to reach out to tribes with interests in the project area.

The Corps supports the Programmatic Agreement among Federal Highway

Administration, Illinois State Historic Preservation Officer, Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer, Illinois Department of Transportation and Indiana Department of Transportation Regarding Implementation of Illiana Corridor Tier Two NEPA Studies. In terms of Native American consultation, this agreement states "FHWA shall consult according to the requirements of 36 CFR Part 800 when properties of religious and cultural significance to such tribes may be affected by the Tier Two undertaking(s)." The Corps stresses the need for cooperation with the tribes in identifying areas of potential religious and cultural significance, as they have knowledge of these resources beyond that of the SHPO.

To address this point, Table 1 under the cultural resources topic should list tribes as data sources. Also, the above agreements should be listed in this table. The Corps requests to be copied on all Section 106 correspondence, including tribal correspondence.

7. The Tier II studies should include the development of a post construction Best Management Practice (BMP) concept plan. As an example, the Elgin-O'Hare West Bypass study utilized a reduction of runoff as a BMP, which involved retaining the first 1.25 inches of rainfall. The BMP plan for this study also included areas for and types of BMPs to be utilized. BMPs are essential for ensuring indirect impacts to remaining and adjacent resources are addressed.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Soren Hall of my staff by telephone at 312-846-5532 or email at Soren.G.Hall@usace.army.mil.

Sincerely,



Leesa A. Beal  
Chief, Regulatory Branch

Copy Furnished:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (Norm West)  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Shawn Cirton)  
Illinois Department of Natural Resources (Steve Hamer)  
Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie (Renee Thakali)  
Indiana Department of Environmental Management (Jason Randolph)

100 N. Senate Avenue, Room IGCN 1255  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
US Fish and Wildlife Service (Liz McCloskey)  
1000 W. Oakhill Rd.  
Porter, IN 46304



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Midewin National  
Tallgrass Prairie

30239 South State Route 53  
Wilmington, IL 60481  
(815) 423-6370

File Code: 1950

Date: March 18, 2013

Norman Stoner  
Federal Highway Administration  
3250 Executive Park Drive  
Springfield, IL 62703

**RECEIVED**

MAR 22 2013

**FHWA**

Dear Mr. Stoner,

This letter is in response to your request that the US Forest Service at Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie (Midewin) provide comments to the draft Scoping Document for the Tier Two Illiana Corridor Study. Following attendance at the February 22, 2013 interagency scoping meeting and review of the draft document dated February, 2013, Midewin provides the following scoping comments.

Alternatives or options for an interchange at or near Illinois Route 53 near Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie will be a significant or key issue during the Tier II Corridor Study for several reasons: a) how will the different alternatives directly, indirectly and cumulatively impact the social and ecological resources at Midewin, b) the economic and social impacts to local communities of Elwood and Wilmington, and c) the potential impact of the interchange alternatives to historic Route 66.

Please contact Mr. Bob Hommes of my staff at (815) 423-6370 or by email at [rhommes@fs.fed.us](mailto:rhommes@fs.fed.us), if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

*Renée C. Thakali*

RENEE C. THAKALI  
Acting Prairie Supervisor  
Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie

cc: US Army Corps of Engineers, Chicago District (Soren Hall)  
US EPA (Norm West)  
US Fish and Wildlife Service (Shawn Cirton)





Division of Historic Preservation & Archaeology • 402 W. Washington Street, W274 • Indianapolis, IN 46204-2739  
Phone 317-232-1646 • Fax 317-232-0693 • dhpa@dnr.IN.gov



April 3, 2013

Katie Kukielka, P.E.  
IDOT PMC Project Manager  
201 West Center Court  
Schaumburg, Illinois 60196

Federal Agency: Federal Highway Administration ("FHWA")

Re: "Draft Scoping Document: Tier Two Illiana Corridor Study" (February 2013) (INDOT Des. No. 1006456; DHPA No. 11913)

Dear Ms. Kukielka:

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act, Section 6002 of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, and Efficient Transportation Equity Act, and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, the staff of the Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer ("Indiana SHPO") has reviewed the aforementioned "Draft Scoping Document," which we received on March 18, 2013, under the March 11 joint cover letter from the Illinois Department of Transportation and the Indiana Department of Transportation. Tier Two of the Illiana Corridor could have effects on historical and archaeological properties in Lake County, Indiana, and in Kankakee and Will counties, Illinois.

As the March 11 cover letter requested, we have returned the "Section 106 Consulting Party Response" form by separate mailing on March 25, 2013. We hope the other Indiana parties who have been invited to participate in the Section 106 consultation on the Tier Two Illiana Corridor Study also will agree to participate.

Thank you for offering us and the other, invited consulting parties the opportunity to comment on the "Draft Scoping Document." The document provides an understandable overview of the NEPA process. It is less clear to us, however, whether other, prospective Indiana consulting parties will be able to grasp, based on the cover letter and the scoping document, the role they may have the opportunity to play in the Section 106 process in Tier Two. With the exception of a few bridge and street projects funded by FHWA and a few projects of other kinds funded by other federal agencies, there have not been many opportunities in recent years for interested parties in Lake County to participate in Section 106 consultations that have progressed beyond the effects assessment stages of the review process. Consequently, many of the prospective consulting parties in the area may not have a detailed understanding of the Section 106 process.

Because the "Draft Scoping Document" is presented largely in NEPA terminology, we would suggest that it might not be clear to prospective consulting parties just how quickly the Section 106 process will need to move in order to meet the project's timetable. In order for the Section 106 process to inform the parallel NEPA process, it is our impression that the Section 106 process would need to be largely completed, except perhaps for agreeing to specific measures to mitigate adverse effects—if any are found—at least by the time the draft environmental impact statement is due to be released in September 2013.

We would urge that additional information about the steps and timetable of the Section 106 process be provided as soon as possible to those parties who accept the invitation to participate in this consultation. We also would ask that the door be left open to parties who may not, at present, fully appreciate the opportunity that the consulting party invitation offers—and to parties whom FHWA and we might not already have thought to invite—to join the consultation at later stages of the process, if those parties can demonstrate that they have a legitimate interest in the project.

If you have questions about issues pertaining to above-ground properties, such as buildings or structures, in Indiana, then please contact John Carr at (317) 233-1949 or [jcarr@dnr.IN.gov](mailto:jcarr@dnr.IN.gov). Questions about archaeological issues in Indiana should be directed to Dr. Rick Jones at (317) 233-0953 or [rjones@dnr.IN.gov](mailto:rjones@dnr.IN.gov). In future all correspondence regarding

the Illiana Corridor Tier Two, please refer to DHPA No. 11913. Please address written correspondence for the Indiana SHPO to Chad W. Slider, Assistant Director for Environmental Review, Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology, Indiana Department of Natural Resources, 402 West Washington Street, Room W274, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204.

Very truly yours,



Ron McAhron  
Deputy Director  
Indiana Department of Natural Resources

RM:JLC:jlc

emc: Matt Fuller, Federal Highway Administration, Illinois Division  
Joyce Newland, Federal Highway Administration, Indiana Division  
James A. Earl, II, P.E., Indiana Department of Transportation  
John Fortmann, Illinois Department of Transportation  
Steven Schilke, P.E., Illiana Project Manager  
Kesti Susinskas, P.E., IDOT PMC Project Manager  
Katie Kukielka, P.E., IDOT PMC Project Manager  
Anne Haaker, Illinois Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer  
Laura Hilden, Indiana Department of Transportation  
Patrick Carpenter, Indiana Department of Transportation  
Shaun Miller, Indiana Department of Transportation  
Anuradha Kumar, Indiana Department of Transportation  
Susan Branigin, Indiana Department of Transportation  
Matt Coon, Ph.D., Indiana Department of Transportation  
Melany Prather, Indiana Department of Transportation  
Matt Buffington, Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Fish and Wildlife  
Richard Rampone, P.E., Parsons Brinckerhoff  
Aimee Paquin, Parsons Brinckerhoff  
Steve Ott, Parsons Brinckerhoff

BUREAU OF PROGRAMMING  
RECEIVED

APR 15 2013

DISTRICT #1

April 10, 2013

Ms. Katie Kukielka, P.E.  
IDOT PMC Project Manager  
201 West Center Court  
Schaumburg, IL 60196

Dear Ms. Kukielka:

Metra has received the correspondence dated March 11, 2013 regarding initiation of the Tier Two Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Illiana Corridor, and is pleased to accept the invitation to become a participating agency. David Kralik will be Metra's primary contact for information related to this study. Please feel free to contact him by phone (312-322-8035) or email ([dkralik@metrarr.com](mailto:dkralik@metrarr.com)) with information or questions. Alternatively, you may contact Kristen Andersen by phone (312-322-8033) or email ([kandersen@metrarr.com](mailto:kandersen@metrarr.com)). Please send all project information and documents to both individuals.

Metra also appreciates the opportunity to comment on the scoping of the Tier Two Environmental Impact Statement. We request that the Tier Two EIS analysis consider access to current and proposed future Metra stations, so that access from the highway network is as direct as possible. For example, connections to Metra's system should be considered in the location and design of Illiana interchanges.

We look forward to continued participation in the Illiana Corridor planning process.

Sincerely,



Lynnette H. Ciavarella  
Sr. Division Director, Strategic Capital Planning